

The CNEW Skew

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Volume 19 Issue 10

October 2006

President's Message

Variety is the Spice of Life!



With the Fall season upon us it is once again time to break into the Holiday gift turning frenzy. I trust that since the beginning of the 2006 season you have been offered some valuable and thought provoking opportunities to learn a few new tricks and techniques, and that being exposed to these you have also experienced a renewed motivation and in fact have attempted one or two new things on your lathe when you were last in your shop. Perhaps your friends and family will be the lucky recipients of a gift in your "new style", happily squeezing out a smile instead of getting another of the same old turning simply with the bumps in a different place...

Speaking of bumps in a different place... We are currently in search of nominees for our Club Officers for 2007. Our elections are in December which requires our naming these persons at our next meeting. Please think about running for office. This is your club and you are responsible for its ownership just as much as

Editorial

Well, the new turning season is well under way. Having recently attended the Betty Scarpino demo put on by the Association of Revolutionary Turners and then the Totally Turning symposium in Albany, NY, I now have enough ideas to last me a long time, even if I only remember half of them. Even half will be good for me – I'm very bad at taking notes. At Totally Turning, I had to go to Cindy Drozda's presentation on making a triangular box twice because I missed so much the first time. The triangular box was an interesting piece. It's turned on three non-parallel axes (in addition to the standard central axis), without using an eccentric chuck. The "straight" parts are mostly turned using a standard chuck, the off-centre parts are done between centres. Not only can this piece be turned *without* an eccentric chuck, I'm not sure it can be turned *with* one. Another proof, if one were needed, that there are many creative possibilities in woodturning that do not require every tool in the catalog. Cindy also demonstrated making a mushroom-shaped box from Banksia pod. That's

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Club Officers and Contact Info for 2006

President, Dave Eaton
 VP, Internal, Frank White
 VP, External, Reid Gilmore
 Secretary, Tim Elliott
 Charlie Croteau
 Treasurer, Mickey Goodman
 Newsletter, Graeme Young
 Video Librarian, Al Faul
 Book Librarian, Charlie Croteau
 Webmaster, Dave Eaton
 Photography, Henry Fairlie

president@cnew.org
 internal_vp@cnew.org
 external_vp@cnew.org
 secretary@cnew.org

treasurer@cnew.org
 newsletter_editor@cnew.org
 video_librarian@cnew.org
 librarian@cnew.org
 webmaster@cnew.org
 photography@cnew.org

President's Message

the next guy. I'll also continue to urge you that even if you cannot for some reason help run the club in the capacity of an Officer, that you can still take on a project or other beneficial role which will fit within your skills and time constraints. Many hands make light work, right? My sincere thanks to everyone who is taking action, even in the smallest way. I appreciate your being involved. Your efforts make the demos, events and meetings both achievable and pleasurable. We do good things and have great fun. This year, not only have we helped ourselves and the local community, but I am VERY proud to say we have had many generous members partake in our effort to positively impact the lives of unfortunate people by making them new wheelchair drivers through Project Goodwill. Doesn't that feel nice? With this remembered I'm sure our next Thanksgiving will be a little more fulfilled. Sometimes a little effort goes a long way.

Until our next meeting - I wish you all a Happy and Ghoulish Halloween. By the way, if some of you advanced turners could please do me a favor... help me figure out how the grain runs in this darn pumpkin!

Dave Eaton

Support Democracy

Vote!

And volunteer to be an officer for the club next year!

Editorial

something else I must try again sometime – my first and only attempt so far was not terribly successful. Speaking of catalogs, Christmas is coming. I know this not just because the number of catalogs in the mailbox keeps increasing but because the basement is getting somewhat chilly. Time to be thinking about what you could make as gifts for family and friends this year, and even what you might like to receive. Right at the top of my list is *time*: there just doesn't seem to be enough of it for all the things I would like to try. Forget about fiddling around with daylight savings time, let's add four hours to every day, and ensure that the extra time can only be used for creative and enjoyable activities, not mundane pursuits like work! That might just be enough to put a dent in the growing collection of roughed-out blanks and even rougher logs that seems to be accumulating downstairs. After reading Angelo's review, the David Ellsworth video will also be on my wish list this year, in case I ever run out of ideas and need some fresh inspiration.



A Banksia pod mushroom

Minutes of October Meeting

Tim Elliott

There were two guests/new members: Dick Ringhaus and Bobby Taylor.

2007 dues may be paid at any time: \$20 per year, \$25 if you would like a paper newsletter in the mail.

Project Goodwill continues. Your donated finished turning could help provide a wheelchair for someone who needs one. We are now collecting for an auction in January at the Big E/Woodworks show. Please bring donations in by the January meeting.

We are also supporting the Freedom Pen project: donated hand-turned pens are sent to active-duty military personnel worldwide. Please bring your donation to any meeting. Gene Spadi donated some red, white, and blue corian that may be appropriate raw material.

Prior to the meeting, we had roughly eight members participate in the open studio. We will have open studio again before the Nov. meeting, beginning at 5:30 pm.

Frank White reports that planning continues for the regional symposium. The slate of demonstrators is firming up and there should be an announcement soon that the website is active. Reid is working on our EOG application to support this symposium.

Dave Eaton arranged to get some donated baseball bat blanks from Gone Batty. Some were available at the meeting; proceeds to benefit the club.

Joan Berthold was awarded a certificate of appreciation and Craft Supplies certificate in recognition of her wonderful refreshments at numerous CNEW events.

Again, there was little activity in the mentor program. Please check the CNEW website for details of members willing to accept calls and visitors.

Mickey Goodman gave a treasurer's report

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| starting balance: | \$681.58 |
| 2006 dues: | +40.00 |
| 2007 dues | +140.00 |
| books, videos | -73.75 |
| newsletter | -113.55 |
| paypal fees | -4.84 |
| new balance | \$724.44 |

Reid Gilmore listed upcoming events

Oct 14, 15 Totally Turning - Albany NY

Oct 14 Michael Allison demonstration hosted by Ocean turners in Rhode Island

Oct 18 CNEW hosts Malcolm Tibbetts 6:30 PM tickets still avail: \$15

Oct 22 Spirit of the Wood show at Middlesex Community College Bedford, MA. AAW members may demonstrate; bring your own tools and wood. CNEW members may exhibit items for sale or as competition entries.

Nov 24-26 Worcester Center for Crafts craft fair.

We still have no volunteers willing to nominate themselves for president or either vice president office for 2007. If you would consider holding any of these offices, please contact any current officer. Details of the officers' duties can be found on our website, at http://www.cnew.org/library/officer_duties.htm.

Thanks to Hal Mahon and Frank White for submitting articles to the newsletter. Hal and Angelo Iafraate volunteered to submit newsletter articles this month.

Ray Boutotte is working on getting some long-sleeved denim shirts made with the CNEW logo. Contact him if interested.

We had several unusual items in our silent auction this month.

Grinder from Charlie Croteau

Bar clamp from Phil Bowman

AAW T-shirt and belt-buckle from Angelo

Ten members participated in the pen swap.

Next meeting's demonstration will be Al Czellecz, on surface decoration.

The December meeting will be our traditional pot luck and gift exchange.

Faceplates and Faceplate Jigs

Hal Mahon

Movable jaw chucks, screw chucks, spur centers and faceplates are commonly used to hold our work on the lathe. Many of us have devised special faceplates to satisfy the particular conditions we have encountered. This is a description of several types of faceplates I've used for holding work on my lathe. Faceplates I have used are: 1) Conventional metal faceplates, 2) a 15" diameter MDF platter with cauls, 3) metal disks adhered with hot melt glue, and 4) an example of a faceplate/jam chuck made from a lawnmower tire.

Commercial Metal Faceplates: First I will mention metal faceplates available commercially. Fig. 1 shows



Figure 1

an 8" cast iron faceplate screwed to a 15½" diameter rough-sawn spalted maple blank. The eight hex-head steel screws holding the faceplate are #12-1" long. Screws 1.5" long or even longer would be recommended if the wood is soft or punky. The popular hardened steel screws that are highly valued for their compressive strength are not recommended for holding faceplates because they have poor shear strength. Heavy duty faceplates with 8" and 4" diameters are available from Sears (1-800-377-7414) at less than 1/3 the price from prominent sources. Other sources for faceplates at good prices are Penn State (1-800-377-7297) and Grizzly (1-800-523-4777). Using these sources I find it affordable to have multiple faceplates so that I can leave them on special purpose jigs, and have several available for work in progress. Penn State offers spindle converters (at 1/3rd the price of others) for adapting faceplates to lathes with different headstock threads.

Another purpose of Fig. 1 is to show the center marker lying on the faceplate. This is a quick do-it-yourself project. It is made of ash from the firewood pile and has been turned so that the diameter of its small end

fits snugly inside the spindle threads of the faceplate. A hole was drilled through the center marker, sized for a center punch from your tool box or hardware store. This tool is helpful for centering the faceplate on this very heavy maple blank.

It is often essential to know the exact center of the bottom of a bowl before the faceplate is removed. The center marker is fitted inside the threads of the faceplate and the center punch is tapped to leave an indentation marking the exact center of the base of the bowl. This will allow the precise centering of the bowl as the point of the tailstock is located on this indentation. The mouth of the bowl can then be centered onto a jam chuck, as described below, or vacuum chuck (to be discussed in a future article) before the tailstock is withdrawn. Now the bottom of the bowl may be turned to final shape.

MDF Platter with Cauls: As an alternative to Cole jaws, a 15" dia. Medium Density Fiberboard platter is an easy construction for holding a variety of lesser diameter bowls and sector rings. MDF is flat and does not warp. My platter has been turned from two, glued together ¾" thick pieces of MDF. The size is slightly less than the maximum diameter that will swing over the bed of my lathe. Any deflection of this 1½" thick platter is negligible. A 4" cast iron faceplate is centered on the platter, for mounting to the spindle.

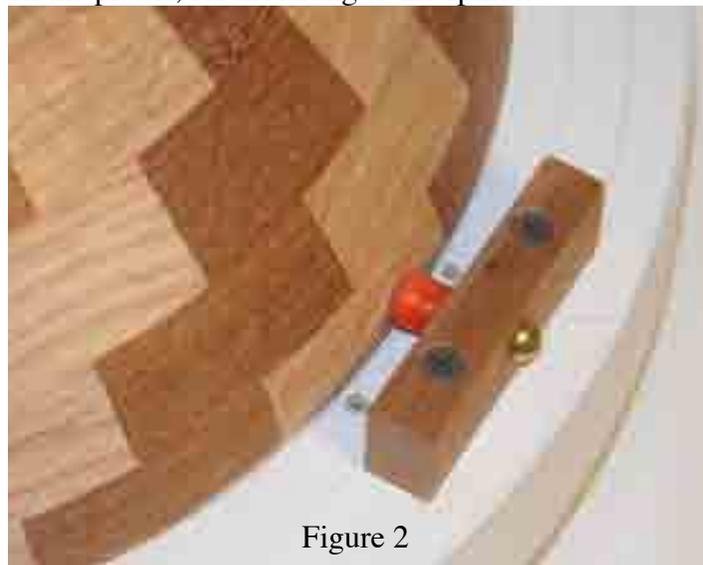


Figure 2

The cauls shown in fig. 2 may be relocated roughly to fit the approximate diameter of the piece to be held, while the 10-32 screws provide for fine centering adjustment. The screws are aimed down toward the surface of the platter. When necessary, they may be padded with cardboard or, as shown, the plastic caps from snow markers. Pencil erasers also work well. In use the three screws have provided ample holding power.

Metal Disks: Fig. 3 shows faceplates of metal disks adhered with hot melt glue. These disks are aluminum scraps salvaged from the waste bin of a machine shop and range from 2½" to 4" in diameter and ¾"



Figure 3

to 2" thickness. The disks can be fixed off axis or off center for eccentric turning intended for non-functional artistic expression. Disks may be easily relocated as shaping proceeds to turn about a new axis. As someone relatively new to wood turning I have enjoyed trying new ideas as I learn. This method of holding work for eccentric turning is certainly inexpensive compared to the hundreds of dollars for commercial chucks. The secret of obtaining a strong bond with hot melt glue lies in achieving a higher temperature than is possible with a glue gun. I apply hot melt glue with the disk sitting on a hotplate at a temperature above 500 degrees F. With the work upside down and its bottom surface level, the glue laden disk is then removed from the hotplate with pliers and centered on the work. The hot disk transfers heat to the work so that the wood under the disk is raised to a temperature such that a good bond is achieved. Excess glue may be squeezed from the joint by pressing with the pliers. Then with the glue still molten the joint must be left undisturbed until it is cool. Joint failures I have experienced were due to repositioning disks after the glue started to cool. The disk can be removed from the work by using the hotplate to heat the disk and melt the glue, as shown in figure 3. Glue remaining on the wood may be scraped off or turned off on the lathe. Using these steps for making the bond and removing the disk the temperature of the wood remains well below that where any damage could occur.

Faceplate-Jam Chuck: A jam chuck is a faceplate tightly fitting into the opening of a vase or bowl. Usually a jam chuck is turned from a scrap piece of wood screwed to a commercial faceplate. Other objects may be recycled for this purpose with a possible saving of effort, as for example wheels with hubs fitting your chuck. Fig. 4 shows an example of a faceplate-jam chuck adapted from a lawnmower tire. No additional faceplate is necessary as the hub of this tire already fits my 4-jaw chuck. The size of this wheel was originally slightly larger than the opening of my bowl.

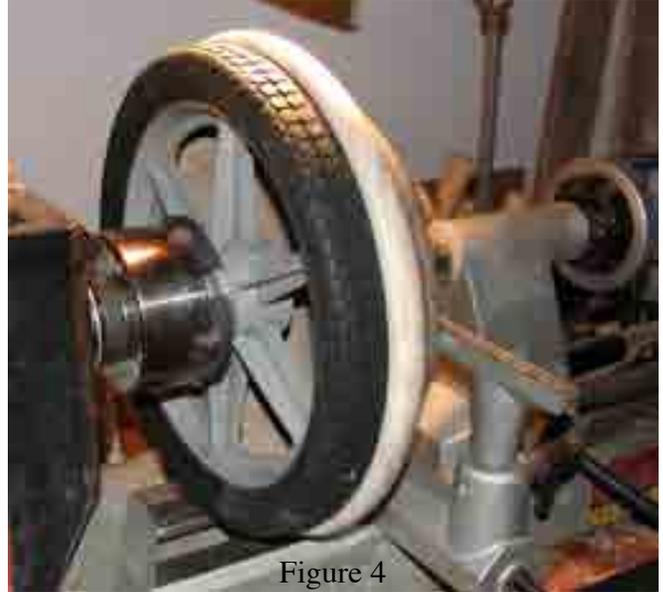


Figure 4

The photo shows the jam chuck after it has been turned to the diameter that will tightly fit into the mouth of my bowl. This shows centering my bowl onto this jam chuck with the help of the point on the tailstock. The tailstock point has been located into the depression made with the center marker shown in Fig. 1. Pressure from the tailstock forces my bowl tightly onto the jam chuck. Although not necessary in my case, discoloration from a tire with such rubber could be avoided by putting on a layer of duct tape. There are numerous beetle holes that add to the rich character of this bowl. These holes preclude use of a vacuum chuck and its large diameter precludes use of my MDF faceplate.

In this article I have described a variety of faceplates I have used. Please take a photo of your creative ideas and submit them in response to this article. I believe this newsletter would like to publish them.

Editor's note: One source for cheap faceplates is Bill Noble at <http://www.wbnoble.com/index.html>. These are just a big washer welded to a big nut but at \$30 for five, they're cheaper than anything else on the market.



Above: Sycamore free-form bowl with “wires for music” by Joe Harbey. Or a salad-bowl with built-in boiled egg slicer?
Below: Will Hunt, segmented walnut and curly maple form.



Above: Reid Gilmore, endgrain vase in ambrosia maple.

Below: Ambrosia maple bowl by Hal Mahon.



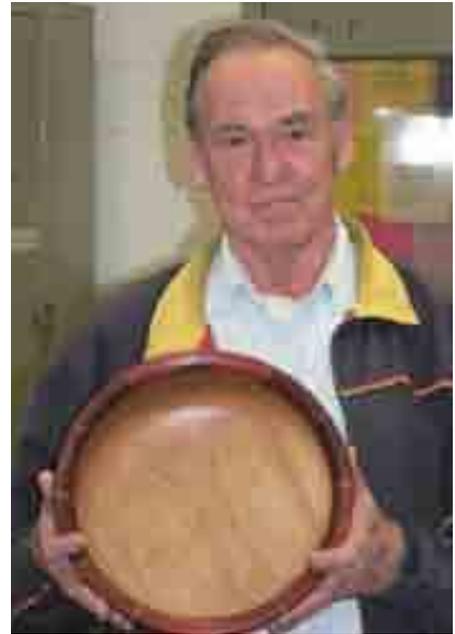
Above: John McAtee, walnut & maple lidded box.
Right: Bowl by Dalton Lugg in “rotten” cherry.

Show & Tell
Photos by Henry Fairlie



Above: Three tiny pieces in oak burl by Frank White.





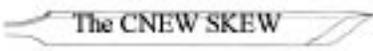
Top, L to R: Covered box with spindly finial by Frank White, pens from the swap, Phil Bowman and bowl with segmented rim.

Bottom row: Ray Boutotte with beech plate, Mike Stone with pens, Angelo Iafrate turning rocks.

AAW Woodturning Masters Series Videos: David Ellsworth **Review by Angelo Iafrate**

I was very much surprised from the quality of the videography as well as some of the innovative shots used throughout the video. The AAW has outdone itself. From the very beginning of the DVD you become aware that this new Master Series Video from the AAW is different than all the others. David Ellsworth IS the undisputed king of the hollow forms. Not only is he fluent in the subtle forms and details that define his work, he is very articulate explaining how and why these things work. Although there is a good amount of information showing and explaining the tools he uses, in my opinion this is not a “how to” video. This is a video of insight and information into the man and his artful turnings.

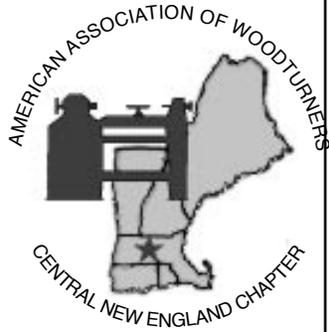
There are now two videos that I will keep on hand to watch when I feel the need for inspiration and enlightenment: “Bowl turning with Del Stubbs” and David Ellsworth, “The Spirit of Woodturning”. This is one you may borrow but it is one you should own.



**CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND
WOODTURNERS**

Central New England
Woodturners
c/o Worcester Center for Crafts
25 Sagamore Road
Worcester, MA 01605

Phone: 508-753-8183
Fax: 508-797-5626
Email: treasurer@cnew.org



*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
Central New England Woodturners
c/o Worcester Center For Crafts
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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