



Volume 21 Number 2

February 2008

Next Meeting Details
Topic: Member Open Shop Tours
Speaker: See minutes, article and www.cnew.org
Date: February 7, 2008

Presidents Message. *Charlie Croteau*

We have gotten off to a good start for the New Year. Apologies to Dave Eaton for not having a lathe ready before hand during our last meeting. I would like us to step it up a bit more for the business meeting. Running over one hour is very painful for many members. It certainly is not helping our club membership.

When I first came to the club, I brought a Dr. friend who took Andy's woodturning class with me. We sat patiently through the business meeting that went on an on. Finally at the break my friend said: "Sorry Charlie, I can't waste my time like this." Sadly, he left, and I almost did too. My point, we have a great club, but there are things that can be improved. To that end, I'll need your help. Please keep it brief.

I feel our club would be better served by having shorter business meetings and longer breaks—where people socialize while the person about to do the demo sets up. We might even collect money for the wood raffle at this time.

The Springfield Wood show went very well. The CNEW booth was well attended and Project Goodwill raised over \$2,300 thanks to the generous donations of all who participated. Thank you. That's enough money to get 47 more people off the ground and change their lives forever. Special thanks to Gene Spadi who not only attended the Goodwill booth all three days, but also helped load, unload, set up and take down.

Dave and I will be visiting the Cape Cod club in Feb. and hopefully many of you will take advantage of the open shop visits.

Minutes of CNEW meeting 01/03/08 *Tim Elliott*

We had two guests/new members:

- Cheryl Vito
- David Hansen

Norma gave a treasurer's report. At the end of November, our balance was \$3012.45. December is not balanced yet due to unusually high activity connected with dues and the November fair. If you have not paid your dues yet, Norma is collecting them now: \$20 for e-mailed newsletter, \$25 if you want a paper copy.

Mary Maguire was persuaded to serve another year as external VP. This fills out our club offices for 2008.

The Woodworks show will be Jan 11-13 in Springfield. CNEW will again bring lathes for demonstrating and individual members are invited to submit work for judging (prizes!). Project Goodwill will have a table.

In February, we will have our annual member shop visits instead of meeting at the Craft Center in Worcester. The following people volunteered to host small groups—more options may be available with time—check the CNEW website.

- Will Hunt and Steve Reznek will give a tour of the Lexington Arts & Crafts shop
- Rick Angus
- Mike Peters (not on our regular meeting night)
- Joe Harbey (contingent on interest)
- Ken Dubay

Table of Contents	
Presidents Message	1
Minutes of previous meeting	1
Open Shop	2
What are Open Shop Visits?	2
Next Meeting Details	2 & 11
Club Officer Listings	2
Beeswax as a Natural Wood Finish	3
Show & Yell	5-11

CNEW Skew: Volume 21; Number 02; February 2008

As usual, contact the hosting member in advance for details and directions.

The open turning sessions at the Craft Center one hour before our regular meeting have not been well attended. Dave Eaton asked whether having a designated mentor to run the shop would improve attendance. No one volunteered and no action was taken.

The website's names-and-faces page is in need of a refresh. If you're not on it, please either provide a digital photo or ask our club photographer Mike Stone to snap a head shot at a meeting. Personally, I find this resource very helpful when trying to put names to faces for the newsletter—I'm sure I'm not the only one who uses it.

Dave Eaton suggested that we should review our book/video libraries and club store to ensure that they are meeting our needs and not draining the treasury. (More below.)

The Craft Emergency Relief Fund has asked us to make a 2008 donation. In the past, CNEW has given them \$100 per year to support their mission of helping full-time craftspeople to recover from major professional disasters. Former CNEW treasurer Wendy Wilson benefited from their program several years ago when her shop burned down. We voted to allow interested CNEW members some time to look into CERF's current programs before voting again on whether to make a donation at our March meeting.

We have heard second-hand that CNEW member Andy Motter may be recovering from surgery, but have no current news on how he is doing. Dave Eaton will send a card on behalf of the club.

Charlie Croteau is investigating some possible CNEW field trips for the coming year. Possibilities include:

- Hardwick kilns
- Sean Roberts woodworking (Gilbertsville)
- Harvard forest
- Oval woodturning mill in Arlington
- A sawmill

Will Hunt announced that the Fuller Craft Museum in Brockton will host a show entitled "The Wood Sculpture of William Hunter" starting Jan 19.

Newsletter editor Rick Angus is still seeking articles for upcoming newsletters. Please think about contributing—contact him directly.

Also for the newsletter: if you attend an open shop in February, please take some photos and write a summary for the newsletter.

Ray Boutotte reported that the CNEW store is going well. CA glue is always in demand and he often runs out of stock. Sandpaper sales have recently picked up. The original store inventory has now paid for itself, and Ray replenishes as needed.

As for the book library, Mary Maguire and Mike Peters volunteered to review the collection and sort out items to be winnowed.

Charlie had another chunk of mystery wood this month.

Answer: American chestnut

Demo: Dave Eaton presented a "smorgasbord" demo on various small projects with strategies for chucking and finishing them.

2008 Club Officers Contact Information		
President	Charlie Croteau	president@cnew.org
VP, Internal	Dave Eaton	internal_vp@cnew.org
VP, External	Mary Maguire	external_vp@cnew.org
Secretary	Tim Elliott	secretary@cnew.org
Treasurer	Norma Hogan	treasurer@cnew.org
Newsletter	Rick Angus	newsletter_editor@cnew.org
Video Librarian	Al Faul	video_librarian@cnew.org
Book Librarian	Ray Boutotte	librarian@cnew.org
Webmaster	Dave Eaton	webmaster@cnew.org
Photography	Mike Stone	photography@cnew.org
Wood Swap	Gene Spadi	
Freedom Pens	Gene Spadi	
Project Goodwill	Charlie Croteau	

Open Shop Schedule

See Page 11, Please.

What are Open Shop Visits? Dennis Daudelin

Open shop visits are where one of the club members volunteers to open their shop up for one night and invites fellow club members to come visit them. We typically use the same hours as the club meeting, so we start somewhere around 6:30pm to 7:00pm depending on the person that opens their shop, they decide!

The process is someone volunteers their shop. They give out their name, phone number and town that they live in. We try to get a good geographical coverage of New England so that people can visit a shop close to their home and not have to travel all around New England in the middle of the winter.

Anyone that would like to visit this shop, calls the shop's owner and says that they would like to visit. This way, the owner can control the amount of visitors since most of us have small shops and can only accommodate a fixed amount of people. It would not be good to have a shop that holds 6 people and then have 12 show it on the night of the meeting.

Each person that would like to visit a shop, gets a confirmation (and directions) from one of the shop owners for the open shop visit. Once you have a confirmation (and directions), you're all set!

The owners of the shop have lots of flexibility in what they do!

- They can give a quick tour of their shop only,
- They could choose to do a demo themselves by a visitor,
- They could allow each person to turn something (providing the materials and tools or not),
- Do a joint turning project where
- Everyone gets to turn on one item or they could do anything thing else that they want!
- There are no rules nor expectations here!! It's entirely up to the owner since they are opening their shops to the club!!

If you don't have another idea, demo's are always a fun thing to do. This could be anything from let me sharpen all my tools and you watch, to let me turn my favorite item to whatever the imagination can create!

It's always best if they owner decides what they want to do so that there is a plan in place before the night of the meeting. It's probably also a good idea to know this when people want to visit so that this can be criteria to enable someone to make a decision to visit or not.

I've also heard of owners having snacks and drinks for visitors but that's not a requirement and is entirely up to the program and the owners choose.

In summary, it's a night to visit the shop of a fellow club member, getting to see the layout and setup of their shop. The meetings are usually filled with lots of "shop" talk and that's fun for all of us.

It's always best if one person visiting each shop can take notes or make a write-up later to share with the club. One person should also take a dozen photo's (digital preferred but not required), we will put them in the newsletter and onto the web site.

From my personal experiences, just visiting someone else's shop is sufficient for me! I like seeing how someone set up their shop, where they placed their machines, and their tools. I've been on visits that were tours only and that was great. I've been to ones

where I saw someone cut a project and I learned several things! I've also opened my shop last year and was able to do a quick tour, sharpening demo and some turning. Everyone one was different and everyone was fantastic! Each night went by way too quick!!

I hope that this article helps people understand what an "open shop visit" is and that we get lots of people interested in volunteering to open their shop or make a visit for next month's [February] meeting.

Beeswax as a Natural Wood Finish Jim Metcalf

As old beekeepers, we have used our hives to pollinate orchards and market gardens throughout Central Massachusetts by moving them at night from location to location. We have also harvested honey in good years along with beeswax as a byproduct. Over the years, beeswax has gained a higher demand than honey as we made candles, ornaments, hand creams and lip balms from the wax. Today we are experimenting with different formula for using beeswax as a finish for turned pieces. We would like to share a couple of formulas that you can try, but first you might be interested in how the wax is produced.



Honeybees live only about 28 days, literally working themselves to death gathering pollen and nectar. During the first hours and days out of their cells the bees clean and repair cells. The young bees secrete the wax from wax glands on the underside of the bee's abdomen. The wax is molded to repair or build new six-sided cells which can be filled with honey, then capped with more wax or used by the queen to lay one of the thousands of eggs produced each day. It is important to know the difference between wax

used for honey storage and wax used for egg cells as there are significant differences in color, odor and properties.

Wax obtained from the brood comb cells used for eggs is very dark containing byproducts of the birthing processes of hundreds of bees. The odor is usually much stronger but not as pleasant as the wax from honey cells. The wax from the honey cells—more specifically from the cappings that the bees place over the filled honey cells to protect the honey from moisture is the cleanest and most pleasant. The color of this wax is a brilliant yellow like sunflowers. The odor is the pleasant scent people normally associate with honey. This wax called capping wax is the most prized and is mostly used for pleasant smelling long burning candles. The reason that I have described the differences in beeswax is because the wax can affect your turning color, shine and odor. Older comb wax is harder and contains materials other than wax. It will give a beautiful sheen to a turning but may slightly darken the color of very light woods. It will leave a slight wax odor that is pleasant but not as fresh as capping wax. Capping wax is softer with a nice sheen, less likely to darken the wood and it leaves the piece with a nice honey scent. If you are turning an object that will be handled frequently, you may want to consider capping beeswax as the owner of the piece will improve the sheen and scent with every handling of the piece.

Beeswax may be used alone by applying it to the turning piece then applying a folded paper towel to heat and bring out the sheen. Beeswax has a melting point of 143 to 148 °F. and should only be heated using a double boiler, as it is flammable. It is pliable at 100 °F and will produce a very nice sheen to wood. In addition, it is impervious to water and unaffected by mildew, making it desirable for food contact containers. If you worry about the finish wearing off versus a high tech poly product, just include a small piece of beeswax with your piece.

Beeswax can be used as part of a number of formula with a number of components to provide durability, penetration and/shine. Here are a couple of examples that you may try.

One of the oldest and most famous Beeswax Polishes is called: Three in One Solid Furniture Polish because of its components. It is simply an equal portioned mixture of linseed oil, warmed beeswax and turpentine. This formula can be experimented with for best results in your application. It is best to begin with small quantities of about a cup of each component. The warmed (heated in a double boiler) should be

mixed with a wood stick until a consistent mix is formed. The rich golden mixture is then poured into a wide mouth container for later use. If a more solid wax is desired, increase the beeswax portion of the formula.

Hard Beeswax Furniture Polish

This formula provides a harder more durable finish due to the inclusion of carnauba wax

- 4 ounces (weight) beeswax
- 2 tablespoons carnauba wax
- 2 ½ cups odorless turpentine or mineral spirits

Melt the waxes in a double boiler. Remove from the heat and stir in the turpentine or mineral spirits. Mix well and store in a wide mouth container. To use, apply the polish with a clean cloth while rubbing in circles. Turn the cloth as it becomes dirty. Allow the polish to dry (haze) then buff with a clean cloth. If more than one coat is desired it will benefit from waiting two days between applications.

Beeswax Special Furniture Cream Polish

- 4 Oz. beeswax
- ¼ cup liquid soap (ivory or dove)
- 2 cups turpentine
- 1 cup very warm water
- 10 drops of lavender essential oil.

Dissolve the soap in the warm water and let cool. Using a double boiler, melt the shaved beeswax into the turpentine, remove and cool. When both mixes are cool, mix gently with a wooden stick and add 10 drops of lavender oil. If the mix hardens too quickly before incorporating, reheat gently while stirring.

Beeswax Arthritis Treatment

This has nothing to do with a wood finish but will benefit the old turner whose hands are feeling the pains of arthritis.

- 5 pounds Beeswax
- 2 cups mineral oil (baby oil)

Melt the ingredients in a double boiler or an old large coffee urn at 170 degrees F. Stir to mix the oil and wax. Remove the heat and allow the mix to cool until a film forms on the surface (about 125 degrees F) Test the wax to be sure that it is very warm but not uncomfortable.

The clean, dry body part to be treated should be dipped into the wax and withdrawn. If the hand is being treated, keep the fingers apart and dip a few times until there is a thick coating of wax. Return the body part to the wax and keep it there (15–30 minutes) until the mixture cools. Remove the body

part and peel off the wax and return to the container. Hurry to your lathe, turn and enjoy the movement without pain.

Save the wax in the container to be used again, the mixture will melt more quickly now that the oil and wax are combined.

Try some of these and other polishes and uses for beeswax. I would like to hear about your formulas. Perhaps we can prepare a part two article with additional recipes. If you wonder why beeswax is so expensive, consider this: It has been estimated that bees must fly 150,000 miles to produce one pound of wax. Bees must eat about six pounds of honey to secrete a pound of wax. For every 100 pounds of honey a beekeeper harvests, only one to two pounds of beeswax are produced.

Show & Tell:

Steve Reznik



pair of complementary bowls with rolled-over rims

Al Gilburg



cherry burl bowl



two peppermills (designs inspired by ancient Egyptian columns) in linden/basswood



Mike Peters



two maple bowls

Reid Gilmore



box with turquoise and elk antler inlaid in lid



walnut crotch platter ("sanded into submission")

Martin Ring



Dave Eaton



vase



spalted maple bowl



small boxes with clay inlaid into top



Goblets

Joe Beaton



Baseball Bat



Candle Holder

Joe Harbey



maple burl bowl

Frank White



Frank White



3 pieces from magnolia (almost free wood)



oak burl vase with lid and ebony finial



Frank

lidded box

Bill LeClerc



Gordon

David Hansen



ash and mahogany bowl

Gordon Clarke



cherry bowl



kaleidoscope (and prototype) 3 months work!



pair of mallets



David
Ray Boutotte



maple burl bowl



Natural Edge Cherry Bowl

Open Shop Schedule

Rick Angus, Moosup CT; 860 564 3660;

When: 6:00 p.m. February 7, 2008.

What: Hands-on small projects and ideas session; bring tools, any special wood and a sweatshirt (60°F).

Capacity: 4

Ken Dubay, Columbia CT; 860 228 2695

When: TBD

What: Demo then you turn a natural edge bowl.

Capacity: >15

Joe Harbey, Westfield MA; 413 562 6705

When: anytime on February 7, 2008

What: Speaker Russ Ellis will talk and show an antique tool collection.

Capacity: 15

Will Hunt & Steve Reznek, Lexington MA; 781 862 5181 or 978 287 4821

When: 7:00-9:00 February 7, 2008

What: Lexington Woodworkers Guild Shop Tour

Capacity: >25

Mike Peters, Sutton MA; 508 865 0392

When: 2:00 p.m., February 15, 2008 (Saturday)

What: Metal theory and tool making

Capacity: 4

The CNEW Skew

Central New England
Woodturners
c/o Worcester Center
for Crafts
25 Sagamore Rd.
Worcester MA 01605
Phone: 508 753 8183
Fax: 508 797 5626
e-Mail:
treasurer@cnew.org



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



Find us on the web @ www.cnew.org

Membership Application

To join or renew membership, please complete this form and a check made payable to CNEW and bring it to a CNEW meeting or mail it to:

Treasurer, Central New England Woodturners
c/o Worcester Center for Crafts
25 Sagamore Rd.
Worcester MA 01650

Annual dues: \$20 including e-mail delivery of newsletter; \$25 for postal delivery of newsletter.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ & Zip: _____

e-Mail: _____

Please check one category below

New Member

Returning Member

e-Mail Newsletter (\$20.00)

Snail Mail Newsletter (\$25.00)

Please let us know of your interests:

How long have you been turning? _____

What programs would you like to see at meetings? _____

Would you like to demonstrate at a meeting? Yes/No If so, what topics do you offer? _____
