



Volume 22

Number 11

December 2009

| Next Meeting Details                         |
|--|
| <b>Topic:</b> <i>Holiday Party</i>           |
| <b>Date:</b> 3 December 2009                 |
| Join us for a pot-luck supper and gift grab. |

### Presidents Message

*Mike Stone*

The year has come and gone with amazing speed! Certainly, it was a year full of challenges, as we searched for and found a new meeting place. In the midst of all of the goings on we still had some great demonstrations and opportunities for growth. Jimmy Clewes, Al Stirt, and others demonstrated ideas that helped all of us expand our horizons as turners.

The officers did a great job of keeping things moving along in the face of our uncertain meeting location from month to month. Thanks to Jerry, Chris, Jon, Tim, Dave, Ray, Al, Gene, and many others who kept the machinery of CNEW humming along! One of the many things I will take away from the office of President is that, at the end of the day, we are all together to enjoy the experience of a piece of woodturning on a lathe. So long as we keep that ideal of what brings us together foremost in our

| 2008 Club Officers Contact Information |                 |                            |
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| <b>Photography</b>                     | ?               | photography@cnew.org       |
| <b>Wood Swap</b>                       | Gene Spadi      |                            |
| <b>Freedom Pens</b>                    | Gene Spadi      |                            |
| <b>Project Goodwill</b>                | Charlie Croteau |                            |

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minds, our perspective will stay strong and we won't get caught up in the "stuff" that can keep us from enjoying the time we spend turning.

I leave you in the very capable hands of Rick Angus, who will no doubt take us on a path of learning and enjoyment for all. Congratulations Rick! I'm excited to see what you have in store for us!

I look forward to seeing all of you at our annual holiday event on Thursday, Dec. 3rd at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Worcester.

Until then, be well, share what you know with others, and above all, have fun!

### Minutes of November Meeting

*Tim Elliott*

Minutes of CNEW meeting 11/05/2009

Guest/visitors:

- Kurt from Sterling, MA
- Dan Joseph from Leominster

John Berke gave a treasurer's report

- beginning balance: \$5126
- credits: \$153
- debits: \$232 (\$134 was our annual website fee)
- ending balance: \$5126

Chris Durkee gave out some certificates

- Dave Eaton (October demo and Learn & Turn)

## CNEW Skew: Volume 22; Number 12, December 2009

- Bill LeClerc, Richard Hunt, Jerry Sambrook (Woodcraft demo)
- Art Bodwell, David Hanssen (Spirit of Wood show)

The Free Wheelchair Mission (CNEW project goodwill beneficiary) will hold a fundraiser at Doyle's Irish Pub in Jamaica Plain the evening of 11/19.

Chris Durkee is seeking ideas for Learn & Turn or demos in 2010.

The club would like to get a larger lathe for meeting demos and outside demonstrators to use. It must operate on 110V and be somewhat portable. Officers are working on a decision, but have not purchased on yet.

The following outside demonstrators are currently lined up:

- Kip Christensen - May or June 2010
- Mark St. Leger - Sept 2010

Dues for 2010 are payable any time (\$30 with e-mail newsletter delivery, \$35 with paper newsletter). Now that we have rent to pay for our meeting space, we will begin stricter payment enforcement. Beginning the February meeting, unpaid members will be expected to pay at the door.

Dave Eaton will submit an application for an AAW EOG grant on behalf of CNEW.

Part of our meeting-space agreement with the church is that we provide labor to support occasional projects they identify. They may be looking for some cabinetwork. In addition, we may be looking to make them some collection plates to replace the wicker baskets they use now. There was some discussion about the collection plates, but no consensus on details.

Chris Durkee read a note from Mary Harbey thanking CNEW members for their remembrances of Joe.

Reid Gilmore is coordinating our participation at the Festival of Crafts on the weekend of Thanksgiving. In addition to our booth, we will provide turning demonstrations.

Jerry Sambrook is still looking for members who can commit to support the Woodworking Show in West Springfield the weekend of January 9/10. Saturday participants are particularly needed.

Our December meeting will be our annual potluck - please bring a dish to pass. Also, we will have our annual gift exchange - to participate, please bring a turned item in a brown paper bag tied up with a string about a yard long.

Charlie Croteau continues to bring in wood for project goodwill. If you take some, please be sure to donate a turned item back to the project. The Wheelchair Mission's biggest fundraiser is in LA in July. Cooking utensils/wood spoons are popular donations.

Thanks to Jerry Sambrook for bringing in some burls and Bradford pear wood for the wood swap.

The video library continues to be popular, and we will soon purchase some new titles. Cost to borrow a DVD for one month is \$2. We have unfortunately had too many overdue rentals, so we will now be charging higher overdue fees: \$2 for month 2, \$5 for month 3, \$5 for month 4. Beyond the fourth month, the member will be charged a \$25 replacement fee. We are looking into pre-paid return mail envelopes to encourage prompt returns.

Dave Eaton reported that our website is "still there." Members are encouraged to upload photos of their own work into the gallery space.

Sean Roberts Woodworking (primary source of our project goodwill wood) has opened a new retail lumber shop in Gilbertville, MA.

CNEW members are invited to tour Bad Dog Burls in Belchertown on Saturday Nov 14. See [cnew.org](http://cnew.org) for details.

The following members volunteered to be CNEW officers in 2010:

- Learn & Turn coordinator: Richard Hunt
- External VP: David Hanssen
- Treasurer: Jim Metcalf
- Sergeant-at-arms: Jerry Sambrook

(from the September meeting minutes, we also have)

- President: Rick Angus
- Internal VP: Chris Durkee
- Newsletter editor: Joe McGill
- Secretary: Tim Elliott
- Photography: Mary Maguire

Dave Eaton reported that the Worcester Center for Crafts still has no occupancy permit and remains officially closed. There has been some progress on developing a new floor plan and it appears that woodworking will continue to be offered in the future. When they re-open, they would like to have CNEW come back. Dave has opened discussion with them regarding meeting space rental costs, which might be a combination of money and donations of saleable work to their retail store. It might also be possible to rent space for large demos only, with regular meetings continuing at the church or elsewhere.

Steve Reznek asked if there was any interest in making a Chapter Collaborative project for the 2010 AAW symposium.

Learn & Turn: Chris Durkee sharpening clinic

Program: Bill LeClerc on mini birdhouse ornaments

Attendance: 43

### **Bill Leclerc - Birdhouse Demo** *Jim Metcalf*

More and more birds are spending the winter in East Hampton, Massachusetts now that Bill Leclerc is turning such beautiful birdhouses. Further Bill demonstrated how to turn houses at the November CNEW meeting motivating everyone to turn a few of their own. Starting with a couple of pieces of wood; one for the body about 1 1/2 " square by 1 3/4 " to 2" long and another 1 3/4 " square by 2 1/4" long, Bill was able to produce a beautiful birdhouse in just a few minutes.

First, on the body block he marked and drilled a couple of holes. The entrance hole of about 1/4" about 1/2 " down from the top of the block followed by the 1/8" perch hole about 1" down from the top of the block. Since the block will be hollowed, the holes only have to enter the block less than half way through. Next, the block is chucked with the bottom of the birdhouse in the chuck. The desired shape is turned followed by a hole drilled (3/4" Forstner bit) in from the tailstock side. Bill marks the drill bit to produce a hole about 7/8" deep. This is followed by a second 5/8" Forstner bit drilled to a depth of 1 1/4". These two holes will form the cavity of the birdhouse and be able to receive Bill's secret jig to jam chuck the body for finishing. The jig is a piece of hard wood about 1 3/4" in diameter by 2 1/2" long. Mount the piece in a chuck then turn a shoulder 5/8" diameter by 3/4" followed by a section 3/4" in diameter by 3/4" long. This piece should match the holes previously drilled into the body of the birdhouse so the body can be jammed onto the jig for finishing the body. Shape the body as desired with or without a bottom finial. Bill sands through a series of cloths followed by friction polish and wax to produce a beautiful glass like finish.

Next comes the top of the birdhouse by first turning a tenon which will fit the 3/4" body opening. Bill turns the underside of the roof in a tapered shape and explains that this is where one should sign the piece before gluing the top and body together. The top is turned to a desired shape then sanded and finished as the body. A jam chuck can be made to accept the top on the opening end. This will allow finishing and

the addition of a hanging eyehook. The final step is the gluing of the top and body together and the addition of a perch in the 1/8" hole. For tools, Bill uses a 3/8" spindle gouge along with a fingernail ground 3/8" gouge.

Bill LeClerc is a natural teacher able to inspire the audience to turn a couple of birdhouses for family and friends. Bill recommends Dick Sing's book on Miniature Birdhouses for people who wish to further expand birdhouse turning. It should also be mentioned that Bill is a "saver of small pieces of wood" which he can turn into the smallest birdhouse. Let's hope that we can encourage Bill and others like him to demonstrate their turning techniques to the club. We all become better turners thanks to people like Bill.

### **Letter to the editor:**

From Jerry Sambrook to me:

...Long story short, at my first show, I had the pencil from this group stolen. I donated the pen to a fundraiser—Jerry Sambrook.

Regarding the Auction at Doyle's, benefiting the Wheelchair Mission:

Jerry,

Thanks so much for the beautiful pen. Someone bought it for \$1000.00 which was matched by someone else. So, your \$2,000.00 got 40 people off the ground.



You ROCK kid.

Thanks so much. Happy Thanksgiving.

Charlie Croteau



## Visit to Dubai's

*Jerry Sambrook*

Sunday, Nov 12th was a beautiful day. Weather was excellent. No impending visits from the mother-in-law. One could say it was almost perfect.

What made it even better was a gathering of wood turners in Columbia, CT. at the home of Ken Dubai. We had a great gathering of about 20 people, with special treats given by both Dave Eaton and Al Czeliecz. The full gamut of experience was there, from beginners like Mickey Goodman (just kidding Mickey), Dr Phil Stone, and Chris Durkee, to seasoned experts like Dave Eaton, Rick Angus, and Richard Hunt (just kidding Richard). There were a few newcomers to the gathering such as Peter Wilcox, Mike Murray from Rhode Island, and Eric Holmquist—what a motley crew, eh!



Dave did an excellent job on a natural edge vase, while Al did some different style boxes.



Dave Eaton working on te vase while Phil watches.

Most everyone turned something as we had a total of five lathes there. Special mention should go to Mickey for working so helpfully and intently with Richard Hunt on a few projects. They sure did put the green lathe through a bouncing pace or two.

Pizza was brought in for lunch, with thanks to Dr Stone for paying for lunch.

There was a good variety of items turned, from a large goblet by Rick Angus, to a variety of bowls, with a real nice undercut piece by Peter Wilcox, to an 8-inch tall thin-stemmed goblet in walnut by Jerry Sambrook.



Honorable mention also goes to Chris for his good tutelage on turning to a junior whose name escapes me (sorry about that).

Thanks to everyone who participated, and now that we have an official club camera, hopefully more pictures will be taken in the future. Special thanks to Richard Hunt and Dr Phil Stone for providing the pictures that we have.

## Making Boxes

*Steve Reznek*

Dave Eaton was kind enough to demonstrate making lidded boxes at CNEW and then repeated the show at ART. Before that, Jimmy Clews had included lidded boxes as part on his one day course a month or so ago. I took the course and had a great deal of fun. So, I will try to put into words, without pictures, what I learned.

Before I begin, a comment or two about boxes. Jimmy taught how to make a box with a lid that "snaps" on-and-off. For us turners, the snap is a lot of the fascination. But the market is another story. The usual purpose of these small boxes is to hold rings or other pieces of jewelry. The customer, more than

likely a woman, wants the lid to lift off easily. Having to grab the top and bottom and pull is usually not in the cards. So no matter how gratifying the snap is to us, it may be better to make the lid looser.

Richard Raffan has a book out on making boxes. His book has illustrations. And I guess I am being presumptuous in trying to describe the process only in words. So, if you did not see Eaton's or Clews' demo and you can't figure out what I am trying to say, there is always Raffan's book. Oh yes, Raffan doesn't try for a snap fit, but he does want the joint to be tight enough to give a vacuum "pop" when you pull the lid off.

A lidded box is really two small bowls that fit together tightly. One of the bowls, the body in my description, has a rim that is set back from the outer surface and looks like a small tenon. The lid's rim fits over this tenon. The trick is to get the two to fit correctly. There are two other differences between two small bowls and a lidded box. Usually when I turn a bowl, I first do the outside and then turn the inside. With boxes, the care you need to get the fit means that you do the rim first, then do the inside and finally come back to the outside. The other difference is the lid has a handle or finial and the body usually has a larger base than a bowl would.

You start with a piece of wood about six or seven inches long that can be turned into a cylinder about three inches (or more) in diameter. The grain should be along the axis of the cylinder, of course. Otherwise, the box will go out of round as the humidity changes. Mount the piece between a drive and a live center. Use a roughing gouge to get the cylinder. Turn a tenon on each end. Mark the cylinder in two parts, one third and two thirds on the length and cut it in two. You can use a parting tool, but a band saw is much better. The less wood you remove between the top and bottom, the nicer the grains will match.

Mount the small top piece in a chuck. Turn down the outer diameter of the top a little. You want to be sure that the top piece is smaller than the bottom when you mount it later. Face off the top piece. You want a nice sharp edge, and a clean face. I use a small bowl gouge, but a spindle gouge works. The face cut should not be flat, but pointed slightly in. The line between the top and the bottom will not be a line, but a "V" if the rim face bulges "out."

The inside of the rim should slope a little toward the outside wall as it goes into the lid. It is very difficult to make the inner wall exactly parallel to the axis and becoming a little thinner as you go in gives an

infinitely better fit than becoming thicker. I use a small square end scraper to make the inner face of the rim. However, Dave used a skew, laid flat. As long as both are sharp, there is little difference. Once you have made a rim on the lid with the face pointed slightly in and the inner wall pointed slight out, you start to hollow out the inside of the lid. You can use either a gouge or a round nosed scraper for the hollowing (or both). Dave uses a spindle gouge. He starts in the middle, and pushes the gouge straight in. Then he pulls the gouge from the center out toward the rim. I start the same way, but when I get a lot of the hollowing done, I switch to the round nosed scraper.

When the inside of the cap is done, sand and apply finish. The next step is to begin to shape the outside of the cap. Now you are turning a sort of "half" bead. Remove a lot of the cylinder above the cap. Now shape the curvature of the outside. You can match the curve of the inside or do something else. For the bowl turners this is like turning the outside of a small bowl. But in this case you have already turned the inside. For the experienced spindle turner, grab your skew. Dave used a spindle gouge. Do not try to turn the entire outside of the lid. Leave some of the cylinder so that you can turn a handle or finial a little later. Sand what you have done.

Now switch the pieces and mount the bottom of the box in the chuck. True up the cylinder and face it off. At this point, it helps to have either a divider or a compass. Measure the inside diameter of the lid. Rest the compass on the tool rest and touch only the point nearest you to the face of the bottom. This point will mark a circle at some distance in from the surface of the cylinder. The other point will show some distance from the surface as well. If the two points are showing the same circle, that is the inner diameter of the lid.

Turn down a tenon to the correct diameter. I use a sharp parting tool. Dave uses the skew laid on its side. The tenon should be just shorter than the rim of the lid, of course. Make the bottom edge of the tenon slightly slanted in. This will meet the rim of the lid and you want a nice sharp line. Also you want the wall of the tenon to slant in, i.e. the top of the tenon is just slightly larger than the bottom. Be very careful as you reduce the diameter of the tenon. If you take a very small amount off the leading edge, you can feel when the tenon just starts to fit the rim of the lid. When you have a nice fit, not too tight but not loose, you are there. You will need to measure a whole bunch of times. A really tight fit will produce a "snap" top box.

A not so tight fit, a vacuum “pop”. And a loose fit a sellable box.

Now you have a lid with a rim and a bottom with a tenon that just fits the rim. The next step is to put the lid on the bottom, using the bottom as a jam chuck. If the fit is too loose, you can use a paper towel between them to tighten the fit. However, ideally you want a tight fit. The fit will loosen up when you hollow the bottom. A little wax applied to the rims at the very end will loosen a “too tight” fit. Now with the lid jammed on, finish shaping it. Continue shaping the outside bead and the finial. Sand and apply your finish.

If the jam chuck is too loose and the paper towel trick doesn’t work, use a thin strip of duct tape to hold the lid on.

When the lid is finished, hollow the bottom. Do this the same way as you did the lid, but this time you will want to go deeper—Maybe a little deeper and maybe a lot. When you have hollowed the bottom, you turn the outside. You are making a little bowl, of course, but again you have made the inside first and then shaped the outside. Leave enough at the bottom and make a base or some sort. Sand and finish. Part off the bottom.

Now the only problem is how to finish to bottom of the base. I use the rubber-plug jaws. If you don’t have these, an idea is to mount a small sanding disk in a drill press and sand the bottom face flat. Of course you can make a jam chuck out of the wood that the bottom was parted from and is still is the chuck.

Apply finis to the body and you are done.

**Show & Tell:**

**Alan Gilburg**



Spalted Vase



Cherry Pepper Mill



Bloodwood Vase

**Jerry Sambrook**



natural-edge ambrosia maple bowl



bittersweet vine weed pot



Reid and Beth Gilmore



walnut bowl with marbled epoxy inlay



segmented plate with central hub designed to break up glue lines for strength



plate with cat-tails design

Bill LeClerc



Balloon Ornament



Birdhouses



Birdhouse



Birdhouse

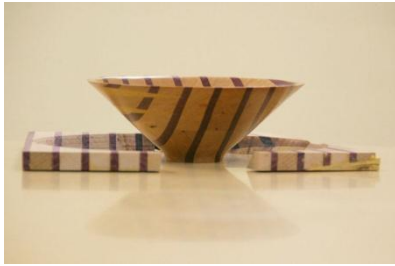


Birdhouse



Birdhouse Roofs

**Art Bodwell**



Segmented bowl made from a laminated board



Segmented Bowl



Tall Segmented Vase of Padouk and Maple



padouk bowl with square design in bottom



Spinning Top

**Richard Hunt**



Ice-Cream Scoop



Mushroom-on-a-log

**Dave Eaton**



aviator flag pen



Pen

**Josh Logan**



Pen



**Eric Holmquist**




Pen made from Re-Bar body


The CNEW Skew

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



Find us on the web @ [www.cnew.org](http://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 Jon Berke  
22 Walden Way  
Milford MA 01757

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
e-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check appropriately below

- New Member  
 Returning Member  
 e-Mail Newsletter (\$30.00)  
 Snail Mail Newsletter (\$35.00)

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? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_