

# The CNEW SKEW

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## October Editorial—Another Mixed Bag

### Special points of interest:

- October Editorial
- Contact Points for New Officers
- Reports & Coming Events
- Oct. Meeting Pictures by Emilio Iannuccillo

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### Fall WCC Crafts Fair

As usual, the weekend after Thanksgiving is devoted to the annual *Fall Crafts Fair* at WCC. To my knowledge we have always taken part in this and this year is no exception. CNEW will have a booth in the wood workshop area as we did last year.

### A Call for Help—Booth Setup

Our booth materials are stored in the WCC attic and so they must be brought down before the other vendors are set up in the finishing room which has the only access to the attic. This means that we have to bring down the materials on Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving. We need to form a work party to meet at WCC on Wed. Nov. 24 at 6PM when we will bring down and assemble the booth. Naturally, we will need volunteers for this work party and for the “reverse” work party on Sunday, Nov. 28 at 5PM. Hopefully, anyone who helps in either of these work parties will not have to otherwise help at the selling end. With a club of almost ninety members, it should be easy to round up 8 or so members for these two sessions.

### Another Call for Help—Selling

The Craft Fair is open on Friday,

Nov. 26 (12 AM to 6PM), Sat., Nov. 27 (10 AM to 6PM) and Sun., Nov. 28 (10 AM to 4PM). During these hours we will need at least two or more members on duty at all times. At the present time, we have only nine members who have signed up to help.

Ladies and Gents, we can't do it if we can only rely on these numbers. Please sign up at the next meeting.

We also need someone who will serve as the event chairman for this affair. It is not a difficult job and most of the work entails either telephone calls or emails to other members or officers. A volunteer is required who can solicit, cajole or coerce others into the hard(er) work. In fact, the chairman need do nothing else.

### Upcoming Election

Hard to believe, isn't it? There is just one more meeting before elections and as usual we are behind the eight ball in our preparations. The term of office for the entire roster of officers is expiring and it is time for the annual changing of the guard. All of the officers will be happy to tell you that their office required little if any real work. Most of them are telling

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## Club Officers and Contact Info for 2004

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Book Librarian, Glenn Randall	508-836-3814	<a href="mailto:ageminus@charter.net">ageminus@charter.net</a>
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### The President's Message

As the year winds down (OK, so it's only October) CNEW has a number of important events. Last weekend was the woodcarving show up at Middlesex Community College. CNEW had a table, 2 lathes and a good turnout of members who had items for sale and who were ready to make some shavings. While sales weren't brisk, we entertained the woodturners in more ways than one. At the end of the month, at least a few CNEW members including myself will be heading west to Albany for the *Totally Turning Symposium*. This should be an interesting symposium since there are several well known turners doing demos during the 2 day event.

November will be an important month for CNEW because it is time to elect officers for 2005. If you would be willing to serve as one of the CNEW officers, or you would like to nominate another member, please attend the November meeting. One of the most important positions to fill will be *Internal VP*, because that is the person who lines up the demos that make each meeting worthwhile. This past year George Whippen has done a great job of setting up a schedule of informative presentations. I'm hoping we can convince several of our officers to serve another year.

At the end of November we will also have the fall craft sale at the *Worcester Center for Crafts*. We will have a sign up sheet at the November meeting for those that intend to bring in items for sale or those who wish to stand in front of the booth. Al-

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### Minutes of the Past Meeting

George Whippen, *Inside Vice President*, called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM, Thursday, October 7, 2004 with thirty members and guests present.

A discussion was held conducted by Lynn Szymanski from the craft center. (She) spoke to the group seeking ideas for marketing the craft center wood courses. Enrollment has been lower than usual and the center would appreciate our ideas. Any other input may be sent to her via her email address, [lszymanski@worcestercraftcenter.org](mailto:lszymanski@worcestercraftcenter.org). One suggestion was to advertise on Dennis' website, [woodturningonline.com](http://woodturningonline.com).

The carving show at Middlesex (Community College) is October 17th. We will have three tables available for member use. There will be a gallery and prizes awarded.

Dennis spoke about the *cnew.org* site and that we have our newsletter in color there as well as (a list of) upcoming events.

Emilio spoke about the Lyle Jameson demo in Rhode Island by Ocean Turners on November 6, 2004 at Wickford Community Center. Leaflets about it including directions were made available to members. The cost is ten dollars and includes lunch. He will be demonstrating *hollow form turning* using his special tool. He will also be demonstrating natural edge bowls. He is also available for one on one teaching when he will be in town.

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## Next Regular Meeting Thurs. Nov. 4, 2004!

George Whippen will demonstrate the turning of pepper- and salt-mills. As usual, *Show & Tell* and the perennial *Wood Swap* will be featured after the business meeting. Bring your work and some wood for the club.

### Editorial/Report—Mixed Bag

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the truth, so fear of being burdened by countless hours of work on behalf of the club is an unreasonable fear. Jump in! The water is fine and the plain truth of the matter is that you CAN do it. Any of the positions is a slam-dunk for most of the members. This past year has seen many of the official functions fine-tuned and taking over any office is easier than its ever been. There will be a cadre of past officers who are always willing to help and give you the benefit of their experiences. With 90 some members it shouldn't be necessary for anyone to repeat as an officer more often than every ten years or so. It's a small sacrifice to pay for a vibrant club. And, let's face it, a club without officers is like a team of horses without a teamster up on the box.

#### Feast or Famine!

Last month's newsletter required ten pages in order to do justice to the photos and the news. We just squeaked under the one-ounce wire for postage, so we now know that we can do it again if necessary. The technology aspects of the software are another issue. I am using MS Publisher 2000 and my computer is able to handle an eight-pager without too many problems. The increase to ten pages bound up the system worse than a two pound block of cheese on a human! That was bad enough but the real problem was the conversion to an *Adobe pdf file*. My computer resources are aging and are only marginally capable of handling this task. The culprit seems to be the large number of pictures at high resolution.

On the other hand, as this issue shows, we are now in the famine area and this issue will probably not

require even eight pages. Here is another area where input from club "reporters" would be helpful. Aside from a few letters and some fine book reviews from Graeme, its been pretty much a one-man show. Some help here would be much appreciated.

Sharp observers will have noticed that a new printer was used to produce the mailed copies of the newsletter. This printer almost achieves the clarity of photo offset printing rather than the more simple Xerox process. The new machine is also a Xerox but the technology is so improved that the pictures have more pizzazz than in the last seven issues. The price hasn't changed though, but let's keep our fingers crossed.

#### Kudos to Emilio, Ken and Dennis

As all of you know, Emilio (with the gracious and able assistance of Vicky) provides the great majority of pictures for the newsletters. Keeping the items straight is no simple task and Emilio often mails them to me complete with a "bowl blank". Ken Dubay provides vast amounts of wood for our wood swaps. Others also bring in wood from time to time and it is much appreciated but Ken largely finances our swaps. Without his generous assistance our treasury would probably resemble a black hole. Dennis also supports the wood swap and in addition, maintains our club website, including posting of the monthly newsletter. If you have not yet seen the website ([cnew.org](http://cnew.org)), you are missing a great take. Also see [woodturningonline.com](http://woodturningonline.com), a joint venture of Dennis and Richard DiPerna.

#### More Info on Bandsaws

In the August newsletter, I discussed band saws. Since then, *American Woodturner* has published an article entitled *The Woodturner's Bandsaw* by Alan Lacer. Based on his experiences, Alan presents some good, useful safety tips to all band saw users. In a side bar on blade types, he makes an unusual statement about bi-metal blades: "*Because I often cut wood with bark attached, - which dulls blades, - I can't justify the more ex-*

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*pensive blades in these categories (carbide and bi-metal) for rough-cutting stock.*” What’s surprising about this comment is that it ignores the fact that bi-metal blades outlast carbon steel blades by about ten to one and carbide blades outlast carbon steel by as much as 100 to one. Given the arguable fact that bark will dull a carbon steel blade at least as much as it will dull either of the two more long-lived blades, there doesn’t seem to be a good reason not to use them. Except price. And I think that that is really the reason why turners choose the cheaper blades, and why really frugal turners weld their own blades. I suspect that the better blades can’t be home-welded as easily as a carbon steel blade.

Like the much touted cheap cost of wood, I suspect that there is also false economy in the use of the cheaper blade. So, I ordered two bi-metal blades (ca. \$30.00 each) at about two to two and one half times the cost of carbon steel blades. I

## October Minutes

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Show and Tell was awesome as usual. Some months it seems like everybody brings in several items, this month only a few. Oh well, enjoy the spotlight.

The Woodcraft store in Woburn along with ART woodturners is sponsoring a pen-o-rama on November 11, 2004 to make pens for our service people overseas. Pen blanks and kits will be provided to turners who will supply the labor. It started off as a small project but has caught on and is a wonderful way to support our troops. Please support this project.

Frank White gave an excellent demo on Christmas ornaments. It is always a joy and informative to watch Frank.

We had a great wood swap. Thanks to all members who donated pieces for the swap. As usual many pieces came from Ken Dubay. Thanks Ken. (Boy, what some people will do to get out of paying dues.)

Bobio Iuliano

don’t weld my own so I don’t know how much cheaper they would be in 100 foot rolls. I’ll guess about two times or about \$15.00 per 105 inch blade. This says that even if you “roll your own”, the bi-metal blade only has to last three times longer than the cheaper blade to be equally economical. If it lasts ten times longer, then it’s a real saving, even for frugal turners. So the real question is whether it really does last ten times longer, or even five or six times longer.

I put one of these (Lenox Die Master 2) on my band saw (Delta 14-inch with Riser Block) and spent the next two and one half hours cutting bowl blanks from very green Cherry, Maple and Ash. Almost the entire time was spent cutting. The thickness ranged from four inches to almost 12 inches, with most in the eight inch range. Bark was present on all of the wood. When I completed this job, the blade was thoroughly gummed up with partially dried sap and I found myself leaning into the blade to complete the cut. As with carbon steel blades, the gum builds up with green wood and that, more than anything, causes the sawyer to lean into the blade. I ran out of wood to cut and the blade is still sharp, but there is another problem.

The real issue in my mind, after four years of using this band saw, is that as I mentioned in the August newsletter, the saw is grossly underpowered with a one HP motor. Most woodturners who buy a 14-inch saw will sooner or later add a set of riser blocks if their saw is equipped to accept them. These are needed in order to handle larger pieces of timber. Any tree limb or trunk over 12 inches in diameter will produce a half-log which mostly will not fit under the blade guides of a 14-inch saw. Even when you are cutting bowl blanks from a five and one-half inch half-log, you are going to tax the saw, especially when the blade gets gummed up. I will not go far out on a limb if I say that it is false economy to buy a 14-inch band saw without a motor of at least one and one-half horsepower. I know that it is sometimes financially draining to buy the best tool for the job, and sometimes it is easier to buy a second tool when money is more readily available. By

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Left: Steve Resnick's segmented bowl; Center: Square Bowl by Mickey Goodman; Right: Maple bowl by Ray Boutotte.



Left: Pedestal Clocks by John McAtee; Center: Cedar bowls by Joe Harbey; Right: Colored bulbs by Al Faul.



Dennis Daudelin: Red Bulbs with glue-up, Segmented pins and ball caps.



Left: Charley Croteau's White Oak bowl; Center: Ray Boutotte "shows and tells"; Right: Lauren Ota's Maple rolling pin.

# The October Meeting

## Show and Tell Pictures by Emilio Iannuccillo



Clockwise from top left: John McAtee, Lauren Ota, Mickey Goodman, Joe Harbey, Dennis Daudelin, Charley Croteau, Frank White's acorn birdhouses, Ken Dubay's silent auction offering, space for rent.



# The October Meeting Views from the floor

George Whippen, *Internal VP*, fills in for *President Reid Gilmore*

**We are always looking for articles, book & video reviews, etc.** Send them via mail or email (see page 2) to the Editor. The deadline for ALL inclusions to the monthly newsletter is the 15th

## Coming Events

### **Oct 30,31 Adirondack Woodturners Symposium**

Empire State Plaza Convention Center. 518-753-7759 or [kevans1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:kevans1@nycap.rr.com) for information.

### **Thurs. Nov. 4, 2004 CNEW Meeting**

Pepper mills by Dennis Daudelin and George Whippen. Just in time for the Holidays.

**Sat. Nov. 6, 2004 Lyle Jamieson Demo** Ocean Woodturners are sponsoring a demo on the above date. For \$10, you get to see the demo by Lyle Jamieson and you also get a sandwich and a drink to boot! Can't beat that with a stick! Contact Emilio for details, etc.

**Thurs. Nov. 11, 2004 Pen-o-rama** A Pen-turning fest at Woodcraft in Woburn to benefit men and women in the Armed Services. Woodcraft will supply pen kits and blanks, you will supply the labor. This is a great cause so try to attend.

### **Thurs. Dec. 2, 2004 CNEW Meeting**

Annual Holiday Party with gift swap. Those who wish to take part in the gift swap will please bring a small self-turned object in a brown paper bag with a three foot string attached. Check with the current indoor VP for information on other aspects of the party.

### **Thurs. Jan , 2005 CNEW Meeting**

No program scheduled as of this date.

## Norton 3X Sandpaper & Saw Blades

I've tried this new variety of sandpaper in 100, 150 and 220 Grit. They are expensive (\$3.67 for three sheets at Home Depot) but they seem to really cut better and last longer. Not a scientific test by any stretch, but worth looking into in more detail.

Woodcraft Bands, Inc. (Vilas, NC; 828-297-6081) is a new source of supply as far as I'm concerned. I had never heard of it before and I haven't yet tried anything but did receive a small catalog (8.5 x 3.5, 8 p.) They claim to save you between 30 and 50% off of major brand blades.

Norman R. Mancuso

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the time you are done, you may have spent more than it would have cost to buy the right tool in the first place. I bought the Delta so-called "Platinum Edition" 14-inch saw and then spent \$93 for a riser kit. Now I have to spend \$150 for a replacement motor, and who knows what else (a tension spring perhaps, new tires, etc.). So, a word to the wise.....

I do think that the bi-metal blades are better, though. My unscientific test is certainly not proof other than to give a gut-feeling. *Fine woodworking* magazine ran a band saw blade test some issues back, but naturally, they didn't do the woodturners any favors. What we need is another test, carefully controlled, which tests the three or so types of blades in green wood so that we know what to buy for the best economy. Don't hold your breath, though. It may be some time before we have anything more than anecdotal information. If any of you out there have any experience with bi-metal or carbide band saw blades, or know of someone who does, please drop me an email or a line.

Norman R. Mancuso

## President's Message

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though this is not a money making opportunity for CNEW, it is a great opportunity for members to sell their turnings.

We've got two club challenges planned for the November meeting. The first challenge is to turn a globe and icicle Christmas ornament similar to those that Frank White demonstrated at the October meeting. For members who were absent (such as myself), you can read about these ornaments in the latest AAW magazine. The second challenge is for those members who were the recipients of wood from Charlie Croteau at the last meeting. Since I only heard about this challenge second-hand I can't tell you any more. *(Ed. note: My recollection of the "challenge" is for recipients of the yellowheart to produce a small turning for the provider of the wood [not Charlie]. We'll need clarification from Charlie at the next meeting.)* And if that's not enough we still have room for other Show and Tell items.

Reid Gilmore

## The CNEW SKEW

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*Central New England Woodturners*

*A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners*



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***www.cnew.org***

Fold line



### **October Demo** **Frank White turns** **hollow ornaments**

*Clockwise from top left:*  
Frank hollows out the body,  
then turns the lower spindle.  
The component parts, two beautiful ornaments,  
and the finished product.

