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September 2005

President's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. Lisa and I would like to thank everyone that showed up to the club picnic. It was good to have some time to talk to everyone and show off my shop as well. Lisa enjoyed herself too and seeing the wonderful turnings people produced, and everyone will be glad to know we took care of those pesky bees.

At the last meeting we had a wood guy come and sell some mahogany. The quality looked good to me, and it was great to get some thick 3" pieces at next to nothing as far as cost goes. I got one piece that will make an excellent 7" pepper mill that was only \$1.25. Though I am no expert, so don't take my word for it, instead talk to the members that looked it over, grabbed some, and had a chance to turn it. I'm sure there will be plenty at the next meeting. I believe he will be coming down for the October meeting as well. I'll send out mail to the Yahoo! group to let everyone know.

The CNEW Store is also open for business. Come to the next meeting and stock up on supplies. We will have CA glue and accelerator, 2" and 3" sanding disks of various grits. This will help to support CNEW by adding in another revenue stream, and help its members by saving 30% or more from retail stores. If you have future ideas on items to stock please send them to me or the store keeper who will be announced at the next meeting.

That's all I have to report on this month. A friendly reminder that elections are only a few months away and most positions will need to be filled, so think about helping out your club by becoming an officer. Hope to see everyone at the next meeting... and bring some wood for our wood swap.

Editorial

Last month, my wife Hazel and I went down to Brookfield Craft Center for a relaxing and educational weekend in western Connecticut. The craft center runs classes in quite a variety of crafts, including metal work, weaving, jewelry, glass, photography and basketry. Hazel took a class in beading and I spent the weekend turning small projects with four other turners, led by Bob Rosand.

The turning shop is well-equipped, with six Oneway lathes and a full complement of tools and other equipment. Bob Rosand also brought several boxes(!) of tools as well as more than enough wood to last the weekend.

First on the agenda was a mushroom, made from small cherry logs. To make it a little more challenging, Bob added a thin frill just below the cap. My mushroom worked out fairly well, with a nice thin skew-cut frill – which promptly cracked when the piece parted off sooner than I expected and bounced off the lathe bed onto the concrete floor.

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Following the mushroom was another simple spindle project, a tool handle for a ¼" round skew. Bob also supplied the steel rod for the tool, and a really coarse grinder to grind it to shape. One novel (to me, at least) aspect of this project was the method Bob used to drill the hole in the handle. The handle was turned with the ferrule end at the headstock, driven by a small spur drive. After completely turning the handle and parting off, Bob mounted a drill chuck in the headstock and used a cup centre in the tailstock to drive the handle onto the drill.

The third and last project for Saturday was a tea light candle holder. Bob noted that he had originally made these to hold confetti lights (small oil lamps) but the tea lights were considerably cheaper and much less breakable than the glass confetti lights. The blanks and waste blocks were all cut cleanly so they were glued up with thick CA again and mounted in the chuck without bothering to turn a tenon on the waste block. I was a bit dubious about this but went ahead anyway. My first effort, in cherry, followed Bob's design fairly closely except I did beads all over it instead of coves. At this point, Bob showed us his method of minimizing sanding – a 50:50 mixture of sanding sealer and turpentine brushed on and wiped dry to stiffen the fibres before the final cut. I had tried this before when it was published [1] but made the mistake of trying to sand instead of cutting, which just clogs the sandpaper. The recess for the tea light came out just a bit tight and I had to take the whole thing out of the chuck to get the tea light out. This confirmed my suspicions about the lack of a tenon on the waste block when it proved impossible to rechuck the piece accurately. Truing up the recess made it rather larger than necessary but no

major harm done. Finally the piece was parted from the waste block and reversed onto a jam chuck to finish the bottom, with more beads of course.

Sunday started out with another tea light holder, this time in osage orange. This is a bright yellow wood with grain structure and turning qualities similar to honey locust. Partly due to a knot, this one departed radically from Bob's design. This time I turned a tenon on the waste block in case I needed to remove it from the chuck. Then, of course, everything went well and there was no need to do so.

The final project of the weekend was a ring holder, which is basically a weed pot with a squat base, a thin neck and a "flame" of contrasting wood to top it off. A hole is drilled down through the neck to hold the flame. The weed pot is held on a waste block for turning. Once all of the body is turned, it is parted off leaving a stub in the centre. Now Bob showed us an unusual way of cleaning up the base. The drill used to drill out the neck is mounted in the spindle and the weed pot is pushed onto it, with a bit of thick CA to hold it in place. With support from the tailstock, the bottom can now be finished off. I found this method a bit hit or
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October Program

The next meeting will be on Thursday October 6th beginning at 6:30pm with the business meeting.

Following this will be Show & Tell and then the main event: Tim Elliott demonstrating how to make a raindrop vase. Wood swap? If you want to swap wood, better bring some wood to swap!

Minutes of August Meeting

Tim Elliott

There were no new members/visitors.

Our lockable storage cabinet is in place at the WCC – we can begin using it for the library and other club materials.

Many other items we voted to purchase in the Spring have also arrived: the One-way chuck and wolverine jig for the Craft Center, and many DVDs for the library.

Richard DiPerna has moved and will not be able to continue as CNEW's treasurer. We are still seeking someone to take over this office.

Bobbi Tornheim listed the demos for the next two months. October will be Tim Elliott demonstrating a raindrop vase. November will be George Whippen demonstrating items that make noise.

Reid Gilmore gave a report on the craft fair in Lowell this month. Ten members participated in the booth. The organizers were expecting crowds of 10,000 to 20,000. Actual attendance wound up being closer to 5,000 and many of the attendees seemed to be doing a lot of looking and very little buying. Booth sales were \$1811 – disappointing for a show of this size. The show may move to a new site or time next year.... CNEW will consider the details of these changes before signing up again.

Reid also reminded members that Jack Grube's teacher's conference will be October 13. Jack is still looking for several CNEW members to cover three or more demo slots. In the spring, Jack passed around a sign-up sheet and had several takers. Please keep this date on your calendars.

The New England WoodCarver's show will be October 23 at the Middlesex Community College. CNEW members are invited to demonstrate and sell at our booth.

Finally, Reid brought up the Craft Center's show November 25 - 27. CNEW will again have a booth for both sales and demonstration. Last year, receipts at this show exceeded \$5000.

The motor in the club's old Jet mini-lathe burned out last weekend, leaving us with no ability to demonstrate at the Lowell craft fair. Joe Harbey negotiated a discounted price for a replacement motor at \$88 plus shipping. We voted to order it.

The Craft Center has a new director of wood programs: Steve Butler.

Bobbi Tornheim will be demonstrating an at Audubon society event November 2. It is at their Drumlin farm facility in Lincoln Mass. She will be making small items such as tops, and would be happy to share the spotlight with another member. Contact Bobbi if interested.

Al Faul pointed out that the current issue of Woodturning Design magazine has an extensive article on vacuum chucks. He showed a vacuum faceplate fitting that he made himself to turn a large bowl.

On the subject of vacuum chucks, Charlie Croteau has a vacuum pump from an old refrigerator that would make an excellent start for anyone looking to fit their lathe with vacuum power. Contact him if you would be interested in it. (and I have an adapter for connecting the vacuum hose to the lathe spindle, if anyone wants it - Ed).

Jody Towne showed up with a pickup full of mahogany cut-off lumber for sale. Most of the load was South American mahogany with some African. Pieces were 2-3" thick, various widths and lengths but generally around 6" wide by 12" long. The price was \$1.70 per bd/ft – very cheap for mahogany. He will be in touch with CNEW about making more regular stops at future meetings.

James Taralli has a large supply of kiln-dried "roughs" (bowls turned once to oversized thickness prior to drying). He would like to sell some – contact him if interested.

Editorial, continued

miss: the hole must be drilled very accurately. I find it easier to finish most of the bottom with a skew while it is still on the waste block, then clean up the rest with sandpaper. The flame is turned from a short stick held in the chuck. A long thin tenon is turned on the bottom of the flame and glued into the weed pot to complete the ring holder.

Altogether, this was an interesting and relaxing weekend. This would be a good class for someone without much turning experience as it involves a number of small projects. You could work through all the projects or decide to concentrate on one and repeat it two or three times. If you want to spend some time on sharpening, you can do that too.

[1] American Woodturner, Spring 2003.

Turning Fossils

Charles Turnage

My demonstration was turning bottle stoppers using exotic woods, vulcanized fiber and Fossil Woolly Mammoth Ivory. I used a chuck I designed for Penn State Industries which is called the Bottle Stopper Lathe Chuck (item number PK-BS1-M for $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 16tpi or PK-BS1-MJ for 1" x 8tpi). This is a screw chuck which mounts directly on the lathe spindle and is threaded to match PSI's bottle stoppers.

I drilled (using the drill bit supplied with the chuck) a hole $\frac{3}{8}$ " deep through the wood which was $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick and then I twisted it onto the chuck causing it to self-thread. After turning the wood I drilled about a $\frac{1}{8}$ " hole from the other side at center through the wood.

I screwed a $\frac{1}{2}$ " long sheetrock screw with the head cut off into the $\frac{1}{8}$ " hole. I then drilled a $\frac{1}{8}$ " hole half way into the $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick Fossil Ivory. The vulcanized fiber was then coated with epoxy resin on both sides and placed onto the wood followed by the Fossil ivory.

After the resin hardened the project was turned and finished. Then it was screwed onto Chrome plated Combo Stopper/Corkscrew (item #BS3) kit. The sheetrock screw strengthens the joint and the fiber allows movement between the two materials.



Screwing on the fossil ivory.



Turning the fossil ivory. With all this dust...



The wooden part of the bottle stopper turned, with sheetrock screw installed.



... a respirator is essential as well as goggles. And you don't want to get that stuff in your hair, do you?



A selection of turnings by Charles Turnage using wood, antler, fossil ivory and other exotic materials.

2005 Summer Picnic Charlie Croteau

A better day could not have been had for our annual August Picnic. The sunny 80 degree temperatures brought out the splinter motorcycle gang from within the club. Our hosts Ray and Lisa had a beautiful spacious back yard with plenty of parking on the sides. The potluck food was superlative with everything from fresh stuffed garden tomatoes to shrimp cocktail, bountiful fruit salads to hamburgers, hotdogs and corn on the cob. No need to go hungry with this crowd.

The organic yard art turners produced some very interesting pieces. A garden gnome, flowerpot stand, and wooden flowerpot with turned flowers (tulips and daffodils) were among some of the pieces.

After the art showing Ray let down his treasure chest piñata and Bob Iuliano made up a handsome little bat in Ray's shop for all willing beaters to take a few swings. I think Ray built his piñata very well as it took quite a beating before yielding its treasure of sanding disks, bottle stopper ends, pen blanks, salt shakers and pepper mills components. A great time was had by all. Thank you Ray and Lisa.



Above and left: Three bowls by Phil Bowman. One in cherry, an inch shallower than planned; one in ash, with a surprise bark inclusion in the bottom; one in cherry burl that came out fine.

Below: Two bowls by Joe Harbey. One in American mahogany (?) salvaged from a Springfield school; one in willow burl.



Left: Tall cedar vase, one of three made recently by Ray Hayden.

Right: Whale vertebra with convenient carrying handle, brought back from Alaska by Ken Lindgren.





Top and left: Three boxes and a sphericon by Graeme Young, the well-known eccentric (turner).

Above: Two large natural-edge maple bowls by Rick Gonzales.

Right: Birdhouse ornament by Ottavio Canu.

Below: Frank White turned all these bowls and platters from the same cherry burl.



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ELECTIONS

Are coming up soon

Desirable positions still available

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