



Editorial Stocking Stuffers

While we were at the Totally Turning symposium in Albany recently, I picked up a few new sanding supplies. My wife Hazel went on the tour of Albany this year, ended up at the local Woodcraft and discovered that even she could not leave a Woodcraft store without buying something. She bought me a set of sanding sticks – small plastic holders loaded with 1/4” wide sanding belts in various grits. They turn out to be quite useful for getting into those corners and details that look alright until you look at the piece properly.

At the show itself, I bought some hook & loop sheets from the Sanding Glove company [1], with and without foam backing. I use this to make sandpaper holders when I don’t already have one that will fit where I need. I have never found wrapping sandpaper round a dowel to work very well – a dowel is rarely what I want for a shape and the paper won’t stay in place. To complement the “hook” holders I found a Canadian company [2] selling “loop” sandpaper in 9x11” sheets, at \$10 CAN for 6 sheets. The paper is high quality – it doesn’t clog, lasts well and even the coarse grits are flexible.

In a similar vein, here are a few other items I have acquired over the years. None of them cost very much but I have found them to be very useful. These would make ideal stocking stuffers for a woodturner, should anyone you know be in need of a few hints.

I have a Veritas scraper burnisher mounted to my grinder bench. It saves a lot of grinding: usually all I have to do is remove the old burr with a diamond hone and use the burnisher to raise a new burr. It is much easier to use than a handheld burnisher because the angle is set and I can exert a lot of pressure against it without putting the scraper in a vice.

For marking centres on square stock, I use a zero centre finder. This is just a plastic square with ribs that lock against a corner of the stock and a diagonal window (contd. on p. 3)

President’s Message

I would like to thank George Whippen for putting on a really nice demonstration. I never knew you could make whistles and didn’t realize how easy they were to make either. The next weekend I turned two, the first one worked ok, but the second one worked great. These are sure to make great gifts to my nieces and nephews.

Please feel free to bring a friend along to the December meeting for the annual holiday meeting. And make sure to turn something for the holiday grab bag gifts. Last year I turned something for me and my wife to swap. My wife loved the candlestick she got, sits in our dining room and gets lots of uses, and I use my pen all the time. It’s nice to have turnings from fellow woodturners. The club should do more challenges and gift swaps in my mind. Hope to see everyone at the December meeting, I’ll try to keep the business part short so we’ll have more time to have fun. I’ll probably bring in some not so popular as well.

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Club Officers and Contact Info for 2005

President, Ray Boutotte
 VP, Internal, Bobbi Tornheim
 VP, External, Reid Gilmore
 Secretary, Tim Elliott

Charlie Croteau

Treasurer, Richard DiPerna
 Newsletter, Graeme Young
 Video Librarian, Al Faul
 Book Librarian, Wayne Moore
 Webmaster, Dave Eaton
 Photography, Emilio & Vicky Iannuccillo

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Minutes of November Meeting

Tim Elliott

There was one visitor - a student in the woodturning program at the Craft Center (sorry, I didn't catch his name).

The CNEW treasury balance is about \$1800. Last year at this time, the balance was about \$2300. Likely reasons for this are recent capital equipment purchases and somewhat less income than last year on the wood swaps.

The December meeting will be the traditional CNEW holiday party – please bring a pot-luck food item to share. Also, we will have our gift swap – bring a turned gift in a brown bag tied with a string. Everyone who brings a gift will take a gift home.

In January our speaker will be Clive Hamilton, former artist-in-residence at the Craft Center. He will speak on how he combines carving with turning.

Norm Mancuso reported that the teacher's conference in Worcester last month had a full slate of turning demonstrators who kept three lathes busy for four hours.

Ken Brannock reported that "Everything went cool" at the Sprit of Wood show last month. Joe Harbey added that space was short and next year we might want to think about purchasing more table space.

The November fair at the Craft Center is 11/25 through 11/27. We need set-up help on Wed 11/23 between noon and 2 PM. Then, we need two or more members to cover the booth for all three days of the fair itself. A sign-up sheet was passed. We have requested the same booth location as last year, but do not yet have any confirmation.

Norm Mancuso is developing more explicit club policies for how the CNEW fair booth will be run in the future. Contact him if you have any concerns or input.

Someone asked whether any CNEW members have selling experience with the store at the Craft Center. Frank White has shown work there, but found sales disappointing. Joe Harbey also showed some work there "years ago", but left the store when he received a letter informing him that their commission percentage would rise from 40% to 50%.

Dave Eaton attended the Albany "Totally Turning" regional symposium. He described Stuart Batty's demos in which he turned a vase, a square bowl, and an absurdly tall/thin goblet from cocobolo. Other highlights include bottle-stoppers and pens made from unusual materials.

Dave has also taken over the CNEW website from departing webmaster Dennis Daudelin. Contact him if you would like to contribute any new content to the site.

December Program

Our annual holiday party will be held in lieu of our regular meeting on Thursday December 1st beginning at 6:30pm, at the usual place. There will be no Show & Tell and no Wood Swap but we will hold elections for new club officers. Bring some food to share and if you wish to participate in the Gift Swap, bring a turned gift in a brown paper bag with a long string on it. The idea is that you pick a gift by pulling a string without being able to tell what is attached to the other end.

Minutes, ctd.

Ray Boutotte has made up a CNEW membership flyer, with an eye to distributing it at future demos and other public events.

The Fuller Craft Museum in Brockton, MA is showing a collection of work by Rude Osolnik now through February 19.

In December, we will hold our annual elections. So far, incumbents or new recruits have agreed to cover the following offices:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Secretary | Tim Elliott/Charlie Croteau |
| Webmaster | Dave Eaton |
| Video Librarian | Al Faul |
| Book Librarian | Charlie Croteau |
| Supplies | Ken Brannock |
| Photography | Henry Fairlie/Emilio Iannuccillo |
| Newsletter | Graeme Young |

That leaves the following offices with no candidates. Please think about whether you (yes, you) would be willing to take on one of these for 2006:

President
Internal VP
External VP
Treasurer

The next Woodworker's show in West Springfield will be January 14/15 of 2006.

The Craft Center expects soon to replace all of their Delta lathes with newer equipment. They may be looking to sell the used machines, but no details were available.

There was some discussion about creating a more detailed policy regarding usage and stewardship of our club equipment. The outcome was that our two lathes will each be available to members for rental at a cost of \$10 per month. The member renting the lathe will be responsible for returning it in good condition. Each lathe will have a designated caretaker who will coordinate rentals, and who is free to use the lathe when it is not rented out. Initially, these caretakers will be Joe Harbey and Ray Boutotte. Dave Eaton will work up a more official statement of how this will work and post it on the website.

Editorial, ctd.

through which you mark a line. It works on anything over about 1" square, even if the stock is not entirely square. To find out how big and where to cut a bowl blank, I have a 12" circle of clear flexible plastic with lines scribed every inch of radius. I made the one I have: commercial versions are much less common than the zero centre finder but Craft Supplies [3] carries one.

If you already have a Dremel rotary tool, a flex shaft is an invaluable accessory. My Dremel is rarely without its flex shaft. Very useful for sanding inside boxes and dealing with that little nub in the centre that you, and everyone else, can see but you just can't get rid of.

Even if you do not intend to do any carving, a carbide burr is useful. For finishing the bottoms of bowls I usually use the vacuum chuck but for boxes and other small spindle turnings that really isn't an option: the piece has to be parted off from the waste and the bottom sanded. To avoid ripping a chunk out of the centre, it's safer to stop short and saw through the last little piece. I have found that a burr is the safest and fastest way of removing the central lump that's left. A ball or cylinder with a rounded end is the most useful shape.

[1] The Sanding Glove

<http://www.thesandingglove.com/>

[2] <http://store.sandpaper.ca/>

[3] <http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com/>

Jack Crean

Jack Crean of Montgomery, MA died November 5, 2005 at age 67. He was a member of CNEW and a friend to all. Jack was a very clever man and hand made most of the items needed for fishing and hunting as he was an avid sportsman. He loved woodturning and created outstanding bowls and other wooden items. He also built a system for processing maple sap and each year made gallons of maple syrup and gave most of it away to friends. Jack served in the US Army Intelligence Corps, and later worked as a science teacher in the Westfield school system. He leaves three children and certainly many friends. I was happy to be one of them. He will be missed.

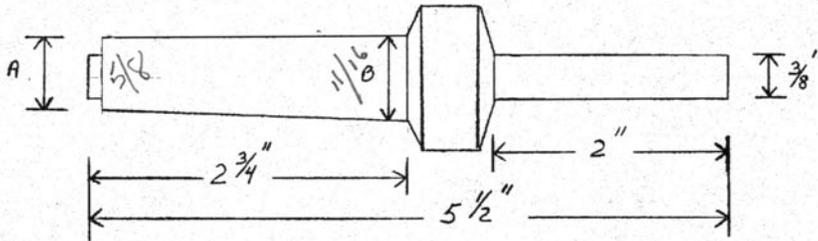
Joe Harbey

Whistles and Duck Calls

Demo by George Whippen

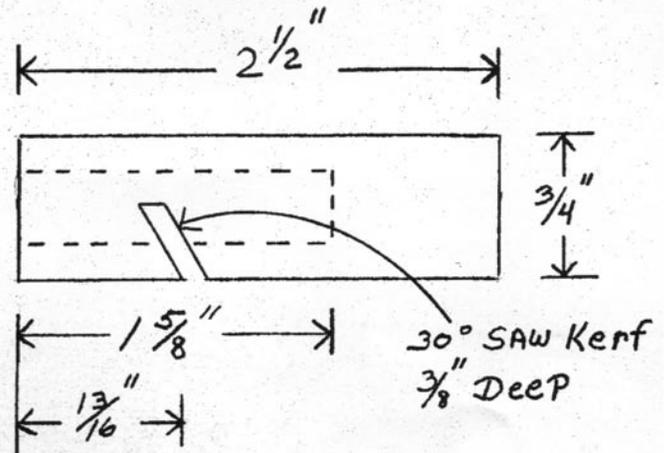
First George explained how to make the mandrel he uses to turn whistles. The mandrel has a Morse taper on one end to fit the lathe spindle and is turned down to a $\frac{3}{8}$ " rod on the other end. This is better than a dowel held in a chuck for three reasons:

- a dowel would flex more
- most dowels are not exactly straight
- a $\frac{3}{8}$ " drill bit will tend to produce an oversized hole, giving a loose fit on a $\frac{3}{8}$ " dowel



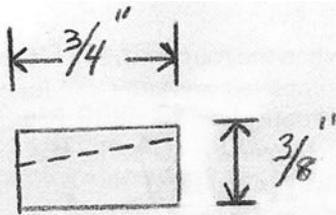
The dimensions given in the diagram are for a #2MT but it is more accurate to check with calipers against another taper than to rely on the measurements.

Once you have a mandrel you can start turning whistles. Begin by cutting blanks to size then cut the notch: the tablesaw is best for this. Most of the dimensions are not critical but the corners of the slot should be sharp. What makes the whistle work is air vibrating as it moves over the sharp edge: a torn or uneven edge will not produce a clean sound. Drill a $\frac{3}{8}$ " hole into the end of the blank on a drill press or the lathe. Mount the blank on the mandrel and turn the whistle, using the tailstock for support except when cleaning up the end. Apply finish before taking the finished whistle off the mandrel.



The reed for the whistle is just a $\frac{3}{4}$ " length of $\frac{3}{8}$ " dowel with one side flattened on a disc sander. The flattened side

can be tapered along the length, in which case the small end of the taper goes into the whistle first. If the reed is loose, glue it in place.



George proceeded with the demonstration by explaining two ways of making a duck or game call.

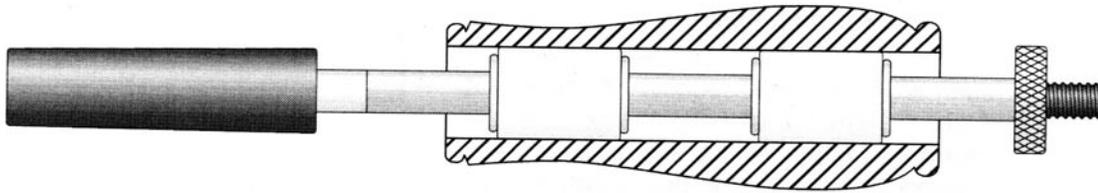
The low-tech way was described in Woodworker's Journal for July/August 1995. This call consists of three parts: a tone chamber, a mouthpiece and a reed. The tone chamber is turned to the desired profile between centres, sanded and finished. It is then bored through on the drill press and the hole is enlarged at the mouthpiece end so it tapers all the way through. The mouthpiece is a very simple split turning with the profile tapered to match the tapered hole through the tone chamber. Using the drill press again, a hole is bored most of the way through the mouthpiece before it is split apart and cleaned up. The reed is just a piece of thin flexible plastic sharpened to a knife edge at one end. This is held between the two halves of the mouthpiece and the assembly is jammed into the tone chamber. Now the tricky bit:



Turning a whistle, using the special mandrel.

trying to make it sound like a duck. The Woodworker's Journal article warns that some experimentation will be required to get the sound right. George says the device is almost impossible to adjust accurately.

The easy way to make a duck call is to buy a kit, which is available from various suppliers. George buys kits from Craft Supplies, which also supplies the instructions outlined here. This kit requires the same three parts (tone chamber, mouthpiece and reed) as before, plus an O-ring. This time the tone chamber and mouthpiece are both drilled all the way through while the blanks are still round.



Game call mounted on pen mandrel

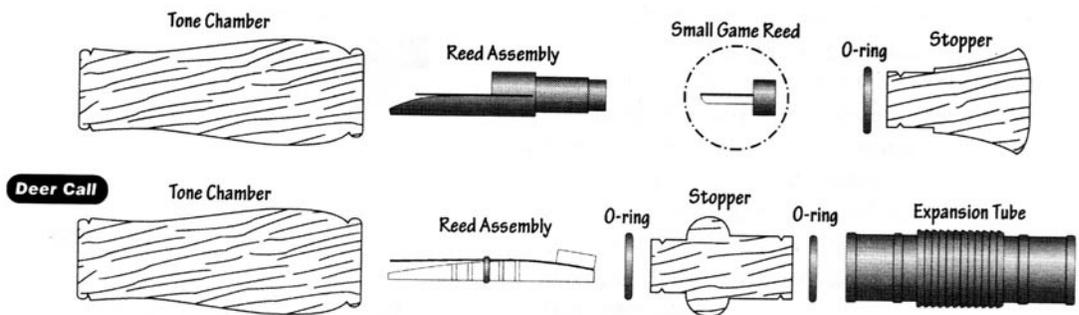
The tone chamber is then mounted on the lathe using a pen mandrel with rubber expansion tubes to provide grip inside a $\frac{3}{4}$ " hole. The profile is turned then sanded and finished before removing the tone chamber from the mandrel. Next the mouthpiece is mounted in the same way and turned, sanded and finished. You have to turn this piece with the

mouth end towards the headstock because the other end has to fit inside the tone chamber.

Testing the fit involves removing the knurled nut from the mandrel so you can slip the tone chamber over the end of the mouthpiece.

The tailstock end of the

mouthpiece is also grooved to hold the O-ring, which prevents air leaking from between the mouthpiece and the tone chamber. The call is completed by pressing the reed assembly (supplied in the kit) into the mouthpiece and pushing the tone chamber and mouthpiece together.



Assembly of various game calls

References:

[American Woodturner, vol. 15 #2.](#) Turning whistles (and the mandrel).

www.lackwood.com Basic whistle plans (and others for sale).

[Woodworker's Journal, vol. 19 #4.](#) Making a turned duck call.

[Craft Supplies USA \(www.woodturnerscatalog.com/catalog/instructions.html\)](http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com/catalog/instructions.html). Plans and kits for various game calls.



Two duck calls in traditional style, a deer call and a whistle.



OOOPS!

Top left: Murphy's Bowl, by Arnie Paye (7" dia.). Everything that could go wrong, did – but it still came out dark and shiny ☺

Left: Ray Boutotte's 7" Tibetan bowl, with hairline cracks from Ray's overpowered vacuum chuck.

Above: Spalted maple bowl (8.5" dia.), textured by Paul Charbonneau in an attempt to hide the cracks.

**Show and Tell
Photographs by Henry Fairlie**



Above: Compound-curve bowl in beech (9.5" dia.) by Graeme Young.

Upper right: Ash bowl (10" dia.) by Rick Angus, with beads on the inside rim.

Lower right: Joe Harbey's American Elm paperweights with MA state quarters embedded



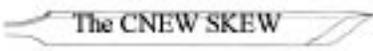


Top left: Joe Harbey, cherry burl bowl.
Above: Cherry bowl, by Paul Charbonneau.
Left: Scoop by Ray Boutotte, in ash.
Below left: Pens in bocote and Corian by Arnie Paye.
Below: Another cherry burl bowl (12" dia.), by Paul Charbonneau.



Left: Joe Harbey made this bowl, from unknown wood. The consensus guess was poplar.
Right: Pepper mill by Ray Boutotte.

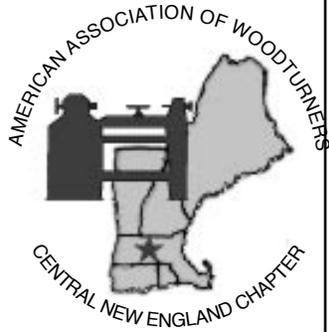




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To join or renew your membership, print this form and either bring it to the next meeting with cash or check for \$20 made payable to CNEW, or mail the form along with a check to:

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What programs would you like to see at our meetings?

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