

The CNEW Skew

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President's Message

Our club is a community of turners with a wide range of interests and abilities.

What are yours?

At the last meeting at WCC I asked all the members to "do some work for the club" and am wondering what I will find when we return there for

our next meeting on September 7th. We know there are few individuals who constantly contribute to our club's health, but since there was no meeting in July which was going to consume a few hours of everyone's time (excluding the picnic), I suggested you find some way in which you could *Do Something* for your club in that free hour or two. You either ignored the idea, did something, or are thinking about it now.

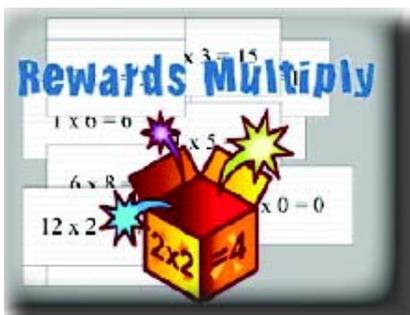
If you care to chip in: think of what you can do to help promote *your* interests within the club. This might seem a bit self-serving for you, but it's also more likely to be something you'll be interested in and hence pull off.

So, what abilities do you have that would help the other members? Some people turn and turn and turn – maybe they're best at setting-up a demo or being a mentor? Maybe they'll show their stuff at a meeting or perhaps invite three people over for a turning session?

Others are computer whizzes – maybe an article or a website page or new member introduction flyer is their thing? If you're a salesman – run a raffle! If you are a project manager, help us with a fund raiser for the club. Whatever you are good at and interested in doing is great. A reader: do a dozen book or video reviews. We need the help both for short term and long term objectives. And Yes, I AM trying to get you more involved in the club.

Please do not hear my words as a sermon or as a cry

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Editorial

Well, I'm back. Summer was a lot of travelling and not much turning. I spent June in London on business. London always did have a lot of immigrants but I was amazed. If they ever hold a contest for the city with the most nationalities and cultures represented, London is a favourite to win. We didn't have a lot of time for sight-seeing but did manage to visit the Tate Modern, with the infamous "pile of bricks" sculpture (actually called Equivalent VIII, by Carl Andre). The trouble with conceptual art is it only makes sense if someone explains it – luckily, we took the guided tour. Then there was the Victoria & Albert Museum, built originally to inspire British craftsmen by showing the best craftwork from around the world.

Back from London for the weekend and then we were off to Seattle. This time we did bring back some wood: a block of big leaf maple, a pair of carved figures from Indonesia and a carved duck dyed using a batik (wax resist) technique – another "must try that some time" piece.

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Minutes of August (?!) Meeting

Tim Elliott

Notes from CNEW picnic Aug 5 2006

No treasurer's report was available.

Next meeting will be Sept 7th back at the Worcester Center for Crafts. Dave reminded us that there will be an open turning session before the meeting, starting at 5 PM. All are welcome.

There was a question concerning the \$5 surcharge for a paper newsletter - this is a new policy that will not start until Jan 2007.

Joe Harbey has interested the Westfield News in reporting on Project Goodwill. Joe was successful and the resulting article is reprinted on page 5.

Reid reports that CNEW will host a demonstration by Malcolm Tibbets Wednesday October 18th. Stay tuned for more details.

Top contest:

- 1st place (59 seconds): Tim Elliott
- 2nd place (53 seconds): Reid Gilmore
- 3rd place (43 seconds): Lisa Boutotte
- 4th place (40 seconds): Ray Boutotte

Book Reviews

Charlie Croteau

The Art of Segmented Wood Turning, a Step by Step Guide. *Malcolm Tibbets*

OK, so you've got a little extra time on your hands. Why not make a segmented bowl? This is a fascinating book with plenty of great photos and very clear explanations on how to do everything connected with segmented and staved bowls. Tibbets is the equivalent of our own Steve Reznick on steroids! This book is chock full of little "tricks of the trade". There are tricks to cutting, gluing, choosing woods, achieving certain patterns, and working efficiently to save time. A great book and a must-read for you segmented-minded folks.

Turned Bowl Design. *Richard Raffan*

Turned Bowl Design is a favorite of mine. Have you ever wondered why a bowl just doesn't feel or look quite right? Raffan's book will help put you on the right track. In it the author not only talks about getting the most out of a piece of wood and different ways to approach a raw piece of wood, but how to design around the piece of wood. My favorite chapter is on form and talks about the pure aesthetics of design and how to achieve nice lines. The book has plenty of side by side drawings and pictures to give you comparisons. You can actually feel the difference when things are done right. My dad would say "no time is lost sharpening a tool". So too with this book.

Editorial, ctd.

Finally we went up to Sunapee, NH for the League of NH Craftsmen annual fair and came back with a glass vase by Penelope Wurr which inspired a couple of pieces I'll have with me for our eccentric and off-wall axis demo at the next meeting. We also acquired a ceramic piece by Hideaki Miyamori, another artist whose forms have inspired one of my turnings (and I have no qualms about copying – he copied the forms from Venetian glass work). See you at the meeting!

President's Message, ctd.

that we don't have members who are helping run the club. We do. But as I have heard lately, "Many hands make light work" and doing work for the club should be rewarding.

As I said in last month's President's Message, I have reaped lots of personal reward from being in office this year. However, I of course do not need to be President to make such contributions, do I? Well, neither do you. The big "goal" here is to make more things happen. More events and activities, whether simple or involved help us entertain or educate ourselves and thus heighten our desire to be a CNEW member. Lastly, don't dismiss what you contribute if you "only come to the meetings." You show others that you enjoy their camaraderie and stories. Story tellers after all need listeners!

Even if you don't take on ANY club tasks, just being with us is important since we are a group who likes to share. Maybe some other day will be your turn? Just be sure to enjoy the club. That's what we all want!

By the way, if you are interested in holding office in 2006/2007 please talk to me or one of the other officers. It's appropriate we discuss this as early and often as we can so that we prepare our club for its yearly transition from one Board to the next without losing any of the valuable momentum we have today. Great things are going on and I for one want them to keep going! I also promise to keep it a secret that you have asked a few questions about holding office if you wish. Hopefully you are so proud of your club you are interested in being an officer for a term and helping find new members to continue our existence.

Well, I'm really looking forward to the next meeting and hearing of what stuff you have done in the last two months – some of our discussion topics are sure to cover things like: October Pen Night, CNEW Tibbetts Demo, WCC Show, Simple Projects you can do, Tool Auctions, Monthly Challenge, Store Sales, Library Rentals, Mentoring, Shop Visits, Mini Demo's, ART's Marshfield Fair, Scarpino Demo at ART, Totally Turning Symp., Project Goodwill, Hook Tools and Jigs, New Members/ Recruiting, Fund Raiser for Club, Workshops ...AND be sure to show up at 5:00pm in the WCC shop room for Open turning.

Happy spalting!

Dave Eaton CNEW President

Annual Picnic

Dave Eaton

We held the 2006 annual CNEW Club Picnic on August 5th and boy did we have a blast! The day was bright and sunny in the 80's with a slight breeze – who could ask for more?

Twenty four members and family were there to eat up hotdogs, hamburgers, potato salad, soda, desserts, and tons more. You name it we ate it! No one went away hungry.

During the day we enjoyed turning on any of five lathes on site with the idea of the day being that of making a Top for the top spinning contest. Cash value prizes enticed almost everyone to try their hand at carving out a top on the lathe. Even a few turners' wives got in on the fun as they created their very first top or very first turnings!

We had a wood swap from host Dave Eaton's whole 3 ton pile and a wood auction with select hardwood planks and spalted maple logs from Charlie Croteau.

In addition to the multitudes of food, whatever flavor of wood was your fancy could be had too. We even had a few members swinging wood, or maybe an iron, while hitting a few golf balls around.

Thanks so much to everyone who brought food and extra thanks to the few who helped clean up. We had a great day and many laughs. Let's do this again next year!



Top Spinning Contest

Galleries, Crafts & Wood Turning by Steve Reznek



This is going to sound a little like, “What I did on my summer vacation.” My wife and I had the chance to visit a few places in New Mexico for a few days around the Memorial Day weekend. We started in Albuquerque, then traveled to Santa Fe and Taos. We stayed in Taos while two things were happening. The first was a crafts fair and the second was the congregation of every motorcycle in the western part of the US. There were only two problems from the 30,000 motorcycles. They were noisy, of course, and there were scenic drives that were totally jammed up. But on the whole there was no real problem.

Santa Fe and Taos are Mecca for crafts. I don't know how many galleries there are in Santa Fe, but there must be hundreds. All the crafts are represented. Of course, there is a lot of Indian pottery, paintings, silver and ketchina dolls. But there is everything else you can think of. Taos is much less “cityfied” than Santa Fe, but it too has a great many galleries. This was our second trip to Santa Fe and the first time to Taos.

The standard of craftsmanship is very high indeed. We did not see any of the cheap crafts that seem to dominate around Christmas in Massachusetts. And some of the art was truly spectacular, with prices to match of course. If you are interested in truly high quality crafts, you should think about going to Santa Fe. You'll be impressed.

Before I start talking about bowls, I want to say a few things about Indian pottery. We went to two Pueblos – Jemez and Taos. I kept asking what a pueblo was and did not get a simple answer. I believe the natives view the tribe, their land and buildings as all part of one thing for which they use

the Spanish word pueblo.

The central part of the Taos Pueblo has the old, multistory buildings that I envisioned when someone used the word Pueblo. The members of the tribe can live either in the old buildings or at other sites with more modern housing. The old buildings do not have electricity or running water. About sixty of the one thousand families of the Taos Pueblo choose to live the old life style in the old buildings.

We purchased a small pot from a gallery in Taos owned by a native. We also purchased a larger pot in the Taos Pueblo. The store had the usual selection of stuff. There were two people in the store, the owner and his father. There were two out of the way displays that supposedly were not for sale. I really liked the pots in the displays. The deceased sister of the father had made them. To make a long story short, it is still possible to buy from the families of the Indian artists, but expect to pay the full value.

OK bowls. There was quite a bit of wood turning in the galleries of both Taos and Santa Fe. Turquoise inlay was popular in the lower price, and lower quality stuff. A lot of the turnings were segmented, which of course appealed to me. In general the quality was very high indeed. I guess I saw ten galleries in Santa Fe and three in Taos that had really high quality woodturnings. One gallery in particular had work by Ellsworth, Vesery and the guy that does the sculptures with the pieces missing. The prices varied from high to astronomical. And as we all know, the price depends much more on the name of the craftsman than on quality. Reasonable bowls were priced at two to three hundred dollars, but



there were galleries that priced in the thousands. Some of these were names that I did not recognize, but I guess other people did. Apparently the market will bear this price, because the number of galleries with woodturnings has grown quite a lot since my previous visit two years ago.

One more point. Richard Pagano used to make “Indian” type segmented bowls. Unfortunately he is no longer living, but his stuff is as good as anything I saw in New Mexico. His web site is at www.beaverpondstudio.com. Look in the segmented section.

Project Goodwill in the News

We are proud of Project Goodwill - following is a reprint of an article in the WESTFIELD EVENING NEWS, August 10, 2006

From Wood to Wheelchairs

DAVE CANTON, Staff Writer

Woodturner Joe Harbey is used to seeing his wooden bowls, vases and even intricately turned ball point pens at craft shows, and some of his pieces even show up in galleries. Harbey has been using his skills in his Westfield workshop to make a wide variety of useful and beautiful objets d'art for years. But now, the fruits of his labor and expertise are reaching beyond American homes. People in Africa, Asia and all over the world appreciate Joe's work, even if they have never seen one of his bowls.

Harbey, along with his friends, all members of the Central New England Woodturners based in Worcester, are donating the exquisite products they make to a worldwide organization called the Free Wheelchairs Mission. It's not that paraplegics and amputees in developing countries need wooden bowls so badly. They need wheelchairs.

Those donated works have been auctioned off in New York and Los Angeles to generate \$3,000 for free wheelchairs for those in need. A similar auction is planned for January 7 during the Home Show at the Big E, Harbey said. Big E officials donated the space in the Better Living Center to the Free Wheelchairs Mission. Through the Mission, specially designed wheelchairs are shipped to developing countries and distributed free for those in need of mobility.

Charles Croteau, a fellow wood-turner from Worcester and friend of Harbey's, was the driving force behind getting local craftsmen to donate their time and talent to the project. He can appreciate just how important a wheelchair is to some people. He uses one.

"I broke my neck on a trampoline when I was 20," Croteau said. "I know how much it means to be able to get around." The Free Wheelchairs Mission has designed a rugged, but inexpensive chair that can stand up to use on unimproved surfaces. The chairs are easily assembled with components made in China, and Croteau said the completed chair costs \$44.50 to make and deliver.

"That's astonishing," he said. "We sent a container of chairs ready for assembly to Africa for the \$3,000. My (own) chair cost more than \$2,500." The whole thing started with some free wood given to Croteau to share with his clubmates, Harbey said.

"Charlie Croteau had some exotic wood and passed it out to us, and asked us to make something to donate," Harbey said.

Harbey said the Central New England Woodturners meet in Worcester to share tips and show off a little. Each person taking the exotic wood set about making the most intricate works they could.

Once Croteau showed the results of the woodturners first foray with the exotic woods, he was able to garner thousands of dollars worth of similar wood from friend and supporter, commercial woodworker Shawn Roberts of Gilbertsville, Mass.

That supply of raw material, and the combined expertise and artistry of the turners, has produced more than 550 wheelchairs for those in need, Croteau said.



Photo from Free Wheelchair Mission



CNEW Annual Picnic

Photography by Al Faul and Dave Eaton



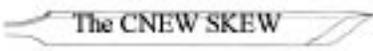
Deny Everything: Bob Iuliano offers the only piece of free legal advice you're ever likely to get.

The very determined Phil Bowman attempts to do chatter work on a poplar (!) top while Reid Gilmore chucks up...

... the thinnest top ever. There's plenty more wood, Reid!



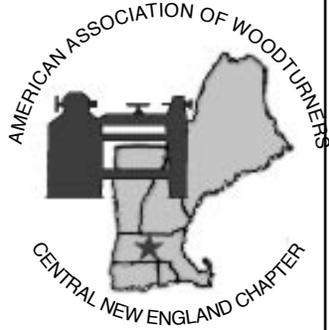




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*Central New England Woodturners
A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners*



On the web: www.cnew.org

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:

Treasurer
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c/o Worcester Center For Crafts
25 Sagamore Road
Worcester, MA 01650

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Renewal New member # years turning? _____

Selling your work? Yes No

What programs would you like to see at our meetings?

Would you be interested in demonstrating at one of our meetings? Yes No

MEMBER ALERTS

***CLUB OFFICER NOMINATIONS
FOR 2007 ARE COMING SOON!***

Check your Fall issue of American Woodturner – there is a new members-only area on the AAW website. Your user ID and password are with the magazine!

Upcoming Events

- Sept 7 CNEW Meeting at WCC
Demo: Off Center & Eccentric Turnings
- Sept 16 Betty Scarpino, Demo by ART club
- Oct 5 CNEW Meeting at WCC
Demo: Turning Alabaster
- Oct 14-15 Totally Turning Symposium, Albany, NY
- Oct 17 (?) Malcolm Tibbetts Demo at CNEW
- Oct 22 Spirit of Wood Show, Bedford, MA
- Nov 2 CNEW Meeting at WCC
- Jan 12-14, 2007 Woodworks Show, Springfield, MA
- June 1-2, 2007 Yankee Turner Symposium, RI (TBD)