

The CNEW Skew

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Volume 20 Issue 1

January 2007

Editorial

For a complete change this month, here's a story from the Free Wheelchair Mission about someone they helped in the Indian state of Kerala. Kerala is along the coast at the southwestern tip of India.

"Today is national polio immunization day. I will take my child to the nearest polio vaccine booth. The ignorance or negligence of my parents made me a polio victim. That shall not happen to my child. Thanks to Free Wheelchair Mission for giving me this wheelchair."

Saritha (age 23) became a polio victim at the age of 3. Her life was miserable due to her disability. Added to that, her parents took no interest in her life. Saritha fell in love with her neighbor and of her own will they got married. Only arranged marriages are welcomed in Kerala society. So her plans, a marriage based on love, were totally unacceptable to both parents. Saritha and her husband were sent out of the family.

Saritha continued, *"When my son Anil was born, I felt so sad. I could not take him around in my hand. Taking children in the arms is the desire of any mother. My disability prevented me from that. It was my long dream. Now, the impossible is possible."*

Today your mission (Free Wheelchair Mission) made that dream come true.

"When both families sent us out, we felt alone in this world. The wheelchair helps me to perform duties as a mother. Your mission helps the destitute like us. Tell the world that what we physically challenged need is not sympathy. We need support. Thank you Free Wheelchair Mission for that support! May God bless you all."

Containers of wheelchairs have recently gone to Kyrgyzstan, Costa Rica, Kenya, India, China, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Peru, Congo and El Salvador. What we do can make a real difference in people's lives. Here's Charlie at the Woodworks Show.



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Club Officers and Contact Info for 2007

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Book Librarian, Ray Boutotte	978-368-0004	librarian@cnew.org
Webmaster, Dave Eaton	508-653-6364	webmaster@cnew.org
Photography, Henry Fairlie		photography@cnew.org

More Photos from the Woodworks Show



Joe Harbey, Al Faul and Norm Mancuso manning the CNEW booth



Dave Eaton demonstrating

February Open Shops

Several members will be opening their shops to the rest of us in February. Open shop night will be on or around Thursday February 1st in place of our regular meeting. The members who have kindly offered to open their shops are

Phil Bowman (Newton Highlands, MA) 617-244-5379

Ken Dubay (Columbia, CT) 860-228-2695

Reid Gilmore (Upton, MA) 508-234-3188

Joe Harbey (Westfield, MA) 413-562-6705

Mike Peters (Sutton, MA) 508-865-0392

Hank Cahill (Abington, MA) 781-878-0234

Everyone has limited space and can only accommodate a limited number of visitors so if you want to visit, call the host as early as possible. The host will provide directions and other details, such as the date and time of the open shop, when you call. Maps are also available on the CNEW website.

Attendees at the various locations are asked to take (digital) photos at the shop. Please forward photo files to the Editor (preferred e-mail address graemey@verizon.net). It would be most helpful if someone could take notes and forward these to me also.



Mulberry bowl by Martin Ring

Minutes of April Meeting

Tim Elliott

Ex-president Dave Eaton introduced new president Al Faul. We had one guest: Josh, guest of Joe Harbey. Al introduced other new officers:

Mary Maguire - External VP
 Reid Gilmore - Internal VP
 Norma Hogan - Treasurer
 Graeme Young - Newsletter
 Tim Elliott - Secretary
 Henry Fairlie - Photographer
 Dave Eaton - Webmaster
 Chris Bonczek - Video librarian
 Ray Boutotte - Book librarian
 Gene Spadi - Woodswap, Freedom Pen project
 Charlie Croteau - Project Goodwill

Ex-treasurer Mickey Goodman gave a summary of our finances: In December the club took in dues for two members and was reimbursed for the cost of the booth at the Thanksgiving Craft Fair.

start: \$667
 end: \$1404

Summary of all of 2006:

start: \$1200
 income: \$5783
 spent: \$5568
 end: \$1404

Charlie Croteau reported on Project Goodwill. We have raised another \$540, due in large part to a number of matted photographs donated by Conrad Berthold. This month, there will be an auction in conjunction with the wood show at the Big E fairgrounds. Several members brought items in for this event.

Charlie also noted that his wood donor has offered to provide materials suitable for larger projects if any members would be interested in making, say, furniture to donate to this cause.

Joe Harbey again organized an open turning session before our January meeting. There will not be an open turning session before the February meeting, as we will have our annual "open shop" visits - not at the Worcester Center for Crafts.

Norm Mancuso and Frank White gave an update on the regional symposium begin organized for Connecticut in June. The website is up (see link on CNEW website)

and registration will open in February or March. Volunteers will be needed, and the organizers are hoping to draw from the rosters of contributing local chapters (us included). Please notify Al Faul if you would like your name excluded from the list of possible volunteers. CNEW's application asking the AAW for educational funds to help support this symposium has been completed and will be sent to AAW bundled with similar applications from six other chapters.

February will be an Open Shop meeting - your opportunity to visit the home of some other CNEW member for shop talk and inspiration. Six volunteers have agreed to open their shops for the night, but space will be limited and you are expected to contact the shop host prior to the meeting night to confirm your attendance and get directions. Our volunteer hosts are:

Hank Cahill Abington MA
 Ken Dubay Columbia CT
 Joe Harbey Westfield, MA
 Mike Peters Sutton, MA
 Reid Gilmore Upton, MA
 Phil Bowman Newton Highlands, MA

We intended to purchase a Talon chuck for the Worcester Center for Crafts at the end of 2006 in appreciation for our meeting space. Bobbi Tornheim may have bought this, but she was not present at this meeting. Phil Bowman will follow up and buy the chuck if she did not already do it.

Richard Vose has been contacted by the organizers of the woodcarver's show next October. Since only 2 CNEW members attended in 2006, he asked for a show of hands to get a sense of likely level of support in 2007. Several members showed an interest and we voted to participate again.

Reid Gilmore collected names of members planning to demonstrate at the Big E.

Dave Eaton had hook tools available for purchase.... also, he is working on thin-kerf parting tools and sharpening jigs. See him at a meeting if interested.

Will Hunt donated two books to the CNEW library.

Simplified Tool Making

Jim Kephart

The first thing I must do, like Norm Abrams in New Yankee Workshop series on PBS, is to warn you about shop safety. An active wood turning shop has more than normal amounts of very combustible materials. Wood dust and shavings are not a fire marshal's dream environment for using open flame torches. I recommend you either clean your shop, or take your tool making outside or to a more fire safe area. This does not necessarily mean that your garage with its gasoline cans and lawn mowers is a safer area. Use some common sense and examine the area before proceeding. It is also a good idea to keep a bucket of water available and/or a large fire extinguisher. Oh, and like Norm says, remember the safety glasses. Other items like leather gloves etc. may be advisable if you plan on doing a lot of this sort of thing. One additional rule from an old chemistry teacher, "**Hot things look like cool things.**"

The principle is relatively simple, you heat a good piece of steel until it becomes non-magnetic (i.e. a magnet will not stick to it), then quench it in the right material. It will harden. The problem is that it is usually too hard for practical use. It is too brittle for our use; any shock and it will shatter leaving a broken grainy surface between the two or more pieces. So to make the steel handle shock and stresses better, we have to temper or remove some of the hardness in hopefully a controlled manner.

What you need to make a couple tools:

pliers

fire proof backdrop preferable, firebricks (avoid regular bricks, they may explode if damp)

magnet

torch propane or better still

MAPP gas torch

safety glasses, fire safe area to work

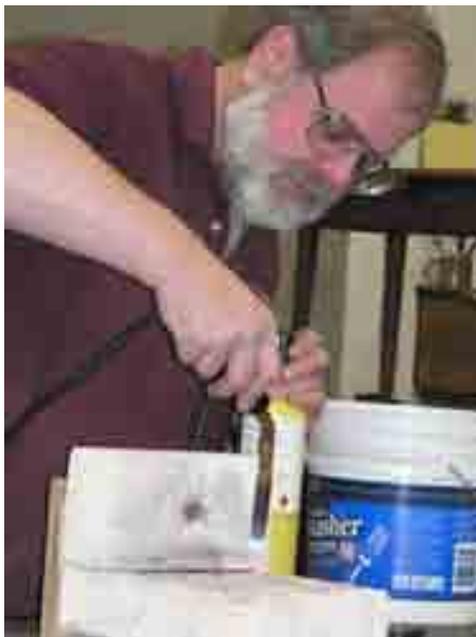
quenching bucket with either oil or water as appropriate

steel: prefer high carbon or high speed steels

a fine file to test hardness

grinding wheel

Set up a fireproof backdrop in a safe area. I used to use a MAPP gas torch to heat metal being held in a pair of pliers, but most of the heat just blows by the tool and is wasted. I now use 3 fire bricks set up to form an "L". This helps to hold and reflect the heat back to the metal being heated (see photo).



Set up a bucket with the correct quenching material. You may ask what is the difference. Some steels call explicitly for either oil or water hardening. Some oil hardening steels may develop fine cracks in sections thinner than the main piece of metal (like knife edges) if quenched too quickly, so oil may be preferred. During oil quenching, the oil may catch fire on the surface, which is easily blown out. In any case, hot metal in cool oil will smoke profusely and smell up the house for hours. So **now**, I usually use water or quench outside. Unless you are making edge tools with the edges forged verses ground, water should work fine for most materials.

Using the MAPP gas or propane torch, heat the tool evenly until it glows red. At this point any bending should be done with pliers and bench vise. If the tool must be drilled or otherwise rough machined the steel should be allowed to cool very slowly, this is called annealing. It will leave the material soft enough to drill or file. If it seemed to get harder from annealing you may have found a weird material called air hardening steel. I found some the hard way.

After the shape has been formed, the tool must be hardened. Reheat the tool to red heat then start checking to see if it sticks to a magnet. If it has become non magnetic, quench the tool in the bucket of oil or water by swirling the tool continuously until the tool stops sputtering. Once the tool is cool enough for handling, it should be tested with a fine file to determine if it is hard enough. If the steel is a good high carbon steel and was heated/quenched appropriately, the file should just skate over the surface of the newly hardened tool. If the file bites into the tool and removes material, the steel is either not hardenable or was hardened incorrectly.

At this point the tool is too hard to be used as is for most applications and should be tempered or softened slightly. The principle calls for a reheat of the tool to about 300 to 400 degrees Fahrenheit. This can be done by baking the tool in you home oven for an hour or more depending on the thickness of the metal, or reheating with a torch. Someone at the 1993 Symposium suggested using a "Fry-Daddy" deep fat fryer with vegetable oil. Until I find one at a tag sale, I dip the tool in water, then heat it until the water boils off, then guess. If it is a thick tool, I'll wait 10 to 15 seconds more, if it is a thin 1/8" or so, I'll remove it sooner. Quench the tool as before.

Now all that is left is to grind whatever cutting or scraping surfaces are required to finish the tool and glue it

into a handle. Handles, well now maybe that's another article. The only way to determine if the above worked is to use the tool: if it holds an edge without shattering, you did good.

Found steel is always hard to determine what it is and if it will harden. High carbon steels can be identified by the spark pattern formed in the air by test grinding. Other steels which are special alloys may work well but may require methods different from above. If the steel is purchased from a supply house, the material hardening temperatures etc. will be known. Unfortunately, unless you get someone like Al Bugby with his metal working furnaces it is tough to measure or heat to exact temperatures. Other books exist on the topic and describe how to judge temperature by the color of the steel in a darkened room.

Anyway the above process will work with a lot of materials with fair success if you are willing to experiment and that is just what most hobbies are an excuse for.

Sources of materials:

drill rod can be oil or water hardening

allen wrenches, (prefer long arm) may be used as bent scrapers without hardening or tempering

old high speed steel drills long shanks (if bending is not required, may be used as is)

old screw drivers steel test with file (useless extra screwdrivers in Sears sets.)

flea market stuff (test with file)

do **not** use hardware store steel rod (low carbon steel will not harden well)

Wholesale tool supply (in Mass.), 800-343-1008

Production Tool Supply 800-362-0142

McMaster Carr

MSC

ENCO



Woodworks Show 2007

Dave Eaton

The 2007 running of the Woodworks Show show was a great success! We received inquiries from over a dozen people about joining the club, sold a few things and took in \$1,800 in donations – enough for about 40 wheelchairs – with Charlie's tireless work at the adjacent Project Goodwill display.

We had both club lathes running almost all the time and a constant crowd of onlookers as Joe Harbey, Norm Mancuso, Dave Eaton, Al Faul, Charlie Croteau and Alan Gilbert manned the tools.

Close by were the Central Connecticut Woodturners and the CT School of Woodworking so many turners we knew were out and about. Ken Dubay, Rick Angus and Al Czellecz were working and many other folks from CNEW or ART popped in from time to time.

Thanks to everyone who worked hard to make this event a success. You each deserve a big round of thanks. With many new prospective members resulting from our time at the show we'll hopefully get some new blood into the club in 2007.

Next year I believe we'll do this event again thanks to the support of our members like Reid Gilmore, Charlie Croteau, Joe Harbey and Dave Eaton as well as others I'm surely missing. We should also thank the Woodworks staff, Judy Franks, and the management without whom we would not be able to partake in such a wonderful event.

If you missed this year be sure to join in next year. The CNEW booth is fun and the show overall is great! So many woodworking vendors under one roof. Wow!





THINGS WITH HOLES

Clockwise from top left:
 Lilac root vessel by Joe Harbey and ants
 Hollow form of oak burl with bloodwood collar by Frank White
 Cherry burl by Dave Hopkins
 Inside-out ornament, maker unrecorded
 Another oak burl piece by Frank White
 Pierced walnut vase by Mickey Goodman

THINGS WITH LINES

Left to right: Baltic birch plywood bowl by Phil Bowman, teak and maple platter by Steve Reznek, perfume sprayer by Rick Gonzales.



SHOW AND TELL

Photos by Henry Fairlie

Apologies for any incorrect captions ☹



Joshua Fuller, first bowl (cherry)



Graeme Young, large maple bowl



Rick Gonzales, large catalpa bowl



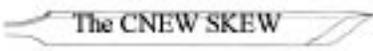
Joe Harbey, very large lumpy bowl



Rick Angus, curly maple bowl w/natural edge



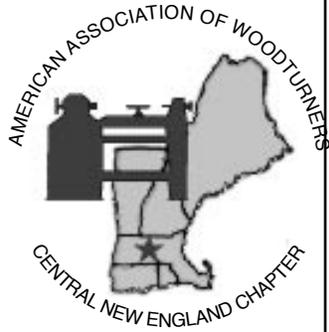
Dave Hopkins, cherry burl bowl



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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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25 Sagamore Road
Worcester, MA 01650

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

If you wish, please let us know more about you and your interests.

Old member New member Turning how many years? _____

Selling your work? Yes No Where? _____

What programs would you like to see at our meetings?

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