



Next Meeting Details
Topic: "Closed-end Fountain Pens" . Learn how to make a closed end pen with a flair!
Speaker: Jerry Sambrook
Date: Thursday, April 7, 2011 6:30 p.m.
Learn & Turn
5:00 to 6:25 p.m.
Topic: "Making Whistles" with Frank White. Frank will have 6-7 predrilled banks for learn and turn participants. Plan to be there no later than 5:15 PM
Leader: Frank White

Minutes 2/17/2011 *Eric Holmquist*

Attendance: ~35

Visitors:

Glen and Anna LePage

Treasurer:

Starting Balance: 4585

Income 1503

Expenses 1174

Closing Balance 4914

External VP:

Seeking suggestions for 2013 demonstrators

Internal VP:

Steve Resnik will demo turning segmented Tulips for March. Proceeds for \$5 tulip kits to go to Project Goodwill

Jerry Sambrook will demo extended pens for April

Looking for volunteers to help with Learn and Turn

Project Goodwill:

Nothing to report

Aime Lafosse Estate:

Large 20" General Lathe still for sale

Donated several books and AAW magazine collection, will be auctioned off over time

Fitchburg Art Museum:

They are interesting in having us do a show next year. More details to come.

President's Message

Charlie Croteau

Dear Members,

The snow is falling again, hopefully the last gasp before nice weather. We have lots of events shaping up for the club. An April 16th trip to Bad Dog Burls in Belchertown with picnic. The Old Schwamb Mill in Arlington on May 14th., Plus a trip to Starrett Co. in Athol on June 9th.

We will also be kicking the tires on having a PIZZA PARTY at the May or June meeting, so give this some thought. Will it make it easier for some who are traveling? Keep the ideas coming, the main thing is that we as a club have FUN, meet folks of like minds and learn something new.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 7th.

charlie

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Club Store:

Anchor Seal is in stock at \$10 a gallon

New pen kits in stick (Sierra / Wall Street II style)

Wood Swap:

John Mills brought in a lot of kiln dried wood for a combo of raffle and silent auction

Frank White brought in a bunch of fresh cut Ambrosia Maple logs

Library:

3 new DVDs added

Several books put in Silent Auction

Excursions:

Bad Dog Burls – April 16 – Rob Doyle will provide hot food, we provide the rest

Schwamb Mill – May 14 - \$150 chapter expense plus \$5 a head. They will provide a craftsman to operate the oval turning equipment

Post and Beam Shop in Hardwick – under investigation

Other:

Dominic is hoping to open his new store the day after St. Patrick's Day.

Lathe Raffle at April Meeting!

Reid Gilmore announces a special raffle of a used Jet1236 Lathe. This lathe is about 10 years old and was used by Reid until he purchased a larger lathe in 2005. Since 2005, the Jet1236 has been used by Reid's wife (Beth Weiner). The current price for a JET 1236 is \$849.99 from Woodcraft. The JET 1236 lathe is a good starting lathe for someone who wants to do small projects. The lathe is in working, but used condition. His intention is that this lathe should be donated to a CNEW member who does not have a lathe, and does not have any immediate plans to purchase a lathe. Plan is to raffle off this lathe (\$1 a ticket, 1 ticket per person, proceeds to CNEW) to eligible participants (no current lathe). The lathe can then be picked up by the winner at Reid's house. Any CNEW member that cannot be at the April meeting, but would like to have a ticket in the raffle should contact Reid Gilmore by phone (508-603-1248) or by e-mail.

CLUB FIELD TRIPS:

BAD DOG BURLS (Belchertown, MA) April 16th, 2011

Join in on a return visit to Rob Doyle at Bad Dog Burls for a day of perusing burls and neat woods, maybe buy

some too! Rob has many different burls from around the world but focuses on those from Australia Like Red Mallee. Join in for a fun day and free lunch. Burgers and dog will be served but members are encouraged to bring side dishes to share. Starts around 10am - but come any-time later if needed. *Address:* 26 Barton Ave. Belchertown, MA 01007 *Ph:* (413) 213-0248 *Web:* <http://www.burlsource.com> email: burls@burlsource.com

OLD SCHWAMB MILL (Arlington MA) May 14th, 2011

CNEW will visit the longest continuously operating mill site in the Western Hemisphere to learn how a skilled woodworker (David Graf) runs the machinery and turns an oval frame like was done a century ago in the workplace, atmosphere and tradition of the past. This will be a walk through history as we watch a oval picture frame being made at this living industrial museum that listed in The National Register of Historic Places since 1971. The cost of the tour and demo is covered by CNEW but there will be an additional mandatory donation of \$5 per person to cover the tours, talks on the Mill. Starts tentatively at 10am. *Address:* 17 Mill Lane at 29 Lowell St. Arlington, MA 02476-4189 *Ph:* (781) 643-0554 *Web:* <http://www.oldschwambmill.org> email: info@oldschwambmill.org

Tale of a Reformed Tool Sharpener

By Ray Harrold

Despite Arkansas stones, Japanese slip water gouge stones, and a bunch of Norton stones, I hate sharpening.

As an amateur furniture maker, I've off and on used spindle turning. Wanting to expand my skills, I took a turning class at the Worcester Center and later joined CNEW to further my education. With Dave Eaton's input, I bought a new lathe suitable for my needs.

I still had the "sharpening problem." I bought the Wolverine system and it sat idle for a couple of years. Finally, I decided to set up a sharpening station. Again, Dave came to my aid when I asked to see his sharpening set up.

In two hours I came away with boards that I could use for my set-up, a class, hands-on sharpening experience, as well as ready-to-go sharpened tools. Thanks, Dave.

Editor's Message

Ron Rocheleau

Editing the newsletter has been fun, mostly because I've received some good articles from a few generous contributors. Dave Eaton has really gone the extra mile to submit a steady flow of articles. You can write an article,

too! A paragraph or two or multi-pages with photos. Whatever you contribute will be greatly appreciated by me and all the newsletter readers. Give it try.

Blacksmith demonstration at the Blackstone Valley school of crafts

by Dave Eaton

On a bright cool and windy fall day, this new craft school hosted a four hour demonstration by Dick Sargent who is a well renowned blacksmith in the New Jersey area. Dick spent the day teaching us how to construct a small mini-forge in order to both heat metal for making tools as well as cool them in the appropriate manner for the right hardness to use in wood turning related tasks. After introductions were done by our hosts Richard Chiros and Steve Butler, we got down to business. Dick started off by passing out a sheet of paper with instructions on how to make a mini-forge from a common everyday mailbox found at Home Depot or other supply stores. The mailbox is a very thin steel type which is cut in "half" about 2/3 to 1/3 with the one third of it being the opening with a door which is discarded. The rest of the shell offers a fairly sturdy enclosure for the forge. Forge's like this, Dick said, could certainly exceed the 2000°F heat range which would normally be sufficient to both heat tools for forming as well as the heat treating process.

Dick's target was to use this shell lined with special materials that will withstand high heat and power the device with a standard propane gas torch. The first thing he needed to do was to drill a hole in the side of the mailbox in a place which would allow the nozzle of the torch to be inserted into the forge. He then took some "Kia" wool and lined the cylindrical inside roof and the sides of the mailbox. This fabric which is easily cut with standard scissors was measured to go up one side of the mailbox, across the roof or top, and down the other side for an internal barrier against the high temperatures. Another piece was cut perhaps 6" x 14" to cover both the bottom and the rear of the mailbox. This provided a fully insulated interior for the forge with about 1-1/2 inches of this special heat resistant material. Next Dick placed a white brick inside the kiln on the bottom onto

which the metal to be heated would sit. This white brick was a special type of heat resistant brick unlike the type which most people are familiar with which line their wood stoves or chimneys. It was extremely lightweight, almost the weight of Styrofoam. Dick needed to make a notch in one of these in order to allow us a type of "door" for our forge. Through the small opening or door, our work piece could be inserted with any extra long portion of material sticking out. It was neat to see Dick cut a small rectangular notch in the middle edge of the brick with a standard hacksaw. The material cut very fast and very easily and upon inspection turned out to be fairly brittle as well, such as you might expect from, say a piece of very "dry sea coral".

The last thing to do was to put all the pieces together and turn on the heat. Dick placed the forge on a table with one white brick at the front and the "door" brick on top of it pretty much enclosing the overall opening of the forge. Into the side hole he placed the nozzle of the propane torch just shy of sticking through the heat resistant material by a small amount. If the nozzle were to be extended to far into the high heat environment it may overheat and damage the tip or cause the flame not to form properly. Dick was using

propane for this demonstration however he commented that map gas could be used successfully and would be appropriate if even higher temperatures were desired. The torch that Dick had was a Benzo-matic torch which screwed onto the propane gas cylinder and provided a push-button start as well as a flow control knob to help regulate the size of the flame. Once the flame of the torch was lit and the forge began to heat up Dick reduced the gas flow to about one third of maximum and we sat back for a few minutes to have a little chat.

At that time our congenial hosts Richard and Steve, with a little help from their wives, broke out the barbecue grill and hotdogs so that we could have a mid-day feast space complete with freshly baked chocolate



chip cookies and cold soda. This was a nice break from standing around watching Dick show his skills in the quite cool November morning. We also took a tour of the building and equipment of Rick's shop in which he and Steve are developing and running the craft school.

After we had enjoyed lunch we went back to work. Dick took a standard mill file and heated it to a very red hot glow. He took the file out and we saw that the last 4 inches had turned red-hot. He placed it on an anvil and began striking it repeatedly with a blacksmith's hammer. While rapidly cooling, the metal was slightly flattened and tapered with notches pounded into the side so that the end of the chisel now approximated what you might call the shape of a woodworking chisel. Dick placed the metal back in the forge and reheated the file again. It was quite surprising that once heated to a red hot glow that the extremely hard and brittle metal of the file could be so easily formed with just a simple anvil and hammer. As a result of heating the file it became extremely malleable. To further refine the shape of the tool that Dick was trying to make he again removed the red-hot steel from the forge and placed it on a forming block. The block had an indentation which was a half round about 3 inches long and 1 inch in diameter. He placed the metal on top of this groove and used the pointed part of his blacksmith's hammer to punch the metal into the groove, thereby taking on a shape such as that of a roughing gouge or deep spindle gouge. What he ended up with, after just a couple minutes of manipulating the steel, reheating it and finalizing the shape, was a small 1-1/2" wide spindle gouge shaped tool ready for final sharpening. All of this was made from a simple mailbox, some heat resistant flexible material and bricks, and a propane torch along with an anvil and a hammer... and of course a file.

In addition to showing us how to build the forge, during the day Dick also managed to educate us a little more on heat treating the metal so that it may be used in our woodworking efforts. Taking the very brittle and hard file and heating it was the first step in making the steel malleable so that we could reform it into a shape which we desired. Of course having made this metal so soft and malleable now made it impractical for us to use for work since it would no longer hold a sharp edge for any

appreciable time. Taking the metal back to its red-hot stage and quenching it rapidly in water or another suitable medium, would harden the steel back to a very strong but possibly brittle state once again. This very hard steel would hold a very sharp edge but possibly might chip during use or break along its length due to its fragile nature. We therefore need to slightly soften the material to get the best of both worlds for the tool as we require it to be. Making the tool somewhat softer will allow it to flex under stress instead of breaking, while not allowing it to become so soft that the hardness of the materials cutting edge would suffer as well. This is a unique process and the subject of very in-depth discussion.

Dick's demonstration was this in a nutshell; a lesson in heating the metal, forming it and then quenching it so that we had a brittle "tool". Next tempering the material and then heating the shank of the material back several inches from the [cutting] area which you wish to keep hard and allowing the rest of the shank to be softened, or annealing the metal. During the later process, we heated the shank a ways back from the cutting edge and as this red-hot area cools the heat in the steel begins creeping away from that spot both towards the handle and towards the cutting edge. Once a straw-yellow color is observed close to the cutting tip, the tool is once again quenched so that no further molecular transformation of the steel occurs. This phenomenon is important to us as toolmakers in order to produce items capable of doing work for us and which may last some time.



Overall this was a very fun and entertaining day with a good bit of education resulting from Dick's mini-forge demonstration, his processing of a standard file into a useful wood turning tool and his lighthearted dissertation about metals and the simple blacksmithing that we did. The emerging Blackstone Valley craft school seemed to be a great place to hold this event and I look forward to the next demonstration that they will hold there. Thank you to Dick, Steve, Rich and wives for a great day and generous hospitality.

Check out their website at:

The Blackstone Valley School of Crafts

7 Depot St., Grafton, MA 01560 413-717-5062

blackstonevalleyschoolofcraft@gmail.com

Dick Sargent has demonstrated and taught workshops nationally. He has been a professional blacksmith for over 30 years and has owned and operated his own forge since 1986. His focus is on high end architectural work.

Starting in a small shop, in Vermont, he worked with Frank Grapes. In 1973 Dick and partner Tony Millham, started Star Forge in Newport, Rhode Island. For 2 years they produced a prodigious amount of reproduction hardware for period homes sponsored by the Newport Restoration Foundation. Following that experience, Dick started his own shop in VT and sold his hardware through his own catalog. In the early-90's he also began producing forged elements, as a subcontractor, for other shops (Catalpa Gate Co. in Putney, VT, for one).

From 1996 until 2004, Dick was the Shop Forman and Blacksmith for Roslyn Metalcraft, a busy railing shop on Long Island, NY, where he produced railings for stairways and balconies. See more: http://www.petersvalley.org/who/dick_sargent.htm

March Demonstration—Turning a Tulip

Speaker: Steve Reznek

After explaining the process for constructing the three and four petal blanks, Steve selected a three pedal to begin the turning demonstration. Proper centering is important.



Next step was rounding off the blank. After deciding whether an open or closed tulip is desired and marking for depth, the inside of the tulip is hollowed. Measure the inside depth and allow enough for the bottom and shape the exterior. Leave a tenon with a diameter large enough to drill out for the stem. Sand inside and out. Steve used a drill bit to hollow out the hole for the stem. Finish as desired. The final product is a reasonable facsimile of a tulip. Just in time for spring!





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Membership Application

To join or renew membership, please complete this form and a check made payable to CNEW and bring it to a CNEW meeting or mail it to:

Treasurer, Central New England Woodturners
c/o Mike Peters
3 Forge Lane
Sutton, MA 01590

Annual dues: \$30 including e-mail delivery of newsletter; \$35 for postal delivery of newsletter.



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



Find us on the web @ www.cnew.org

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Name: _____

Please check appropriately below

Street: _____

New Member

City: _____

Returning Member

State: _____ & Zip: _____

e-Mail Newsletter (\$30.00)

e-Mail: _____

Snail Mail Newsletter (\$35.00)

Please let us know of your interests:

How long have you been turning? _____

What programs would you like to see at meetings? _____

Would you like to demonstrate at a meeting? Yes/No If so, what topics do you offer? _____