



# CHATTERMARKS

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Olympic Peninsula Woodturners  
Olympic Peninsula Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners  
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## SHAVINGS WILL FLY AT THE APRIL SAWDUST FRENZY!

*One of our most popular events has always been the hands-on Sawdust and Shavings days, and we are having one for our regular April 30 meeting. There is something for everyone; especially our newer members. Our Training V.P., Ralph Lindberg, explains.*

It has been enough years since we held one of these that some explanation may be in order. A Sawdust Session is where we set up a bunch of lathes, a grinder or two, and all the club members can bring in wood, tools, chucks, faceplates and other equipment, and enjoy a semi-supervised session.

What does that mean? Let's say Joe wants help with skew chisel techniques. He brings his eye-protection, his skew, some spindle stock, a MT#2 drive center and MT#2 live center and sets up at one of the lathes. To ensure he has access to a lathe, Joe could even bring in his own.

Meanwhile Jim wants to show off how he is threading wood. So Jim brings his setup to show people how it works and gives them a chance to try it.

Along that line, I will be bringing my multi-axis and off-axis accessories as I am having a lot of fun learning how to do multi-axis boxes and the like.

The club will be providing four lathes; three mini-lathes and the large lathe, along with what wood holding accessories we own.

I will also be bringing our personal sharpening station, along with some faceplates, chucks, drive centers and live centers for the mini-lathes. This is because the club owns no faceplates, chucks or other accessories that fit on a mini-lathe (1x8 headstock with MT#2)

There is a possibility that Reed Gray, alias the RoboHippy and last month's demonstrator, will attend. He will teach people how to use his platform fixture to sharpen tools. Jimmy Allen is coming, prepared to help people with box making, just to name a couple. Many of our own mentors, as well as a lot of our other skilled members, will be available to discuss, help and make suggestions to just about any wood turning questions.



**Eric Lofstrom making the chips fly during the October meeting.**

Any club member that wishes to participate will need to bring their personal eye/face protection, tools and any wood-holding accessories, especially those that fit a mini-lathe (1x8 headstock with MT#2)

*Don't forget that this is a regular meeting, too, so bring in your show-and-tells, and be prepared for a good wood auction. There were a lot of excellent bargains at the auction tables last month, and it looks good for more this month.*

## With Apologies to Jeff Foxworthy

By Russell Neyman



I was getting ready to cut a large piece of maple into blanks, and needed to gas up the chainsaw. Reaching for the can marked, "2-Stroke Fuel," I stopped in mid-motion, laughing at what I saw. Stuck into the spout, where a missing plastic cap should have been, was a bottle stopper.

*Now, who but a woodturner would replace a gas can spout cap with a wine stopper??!*

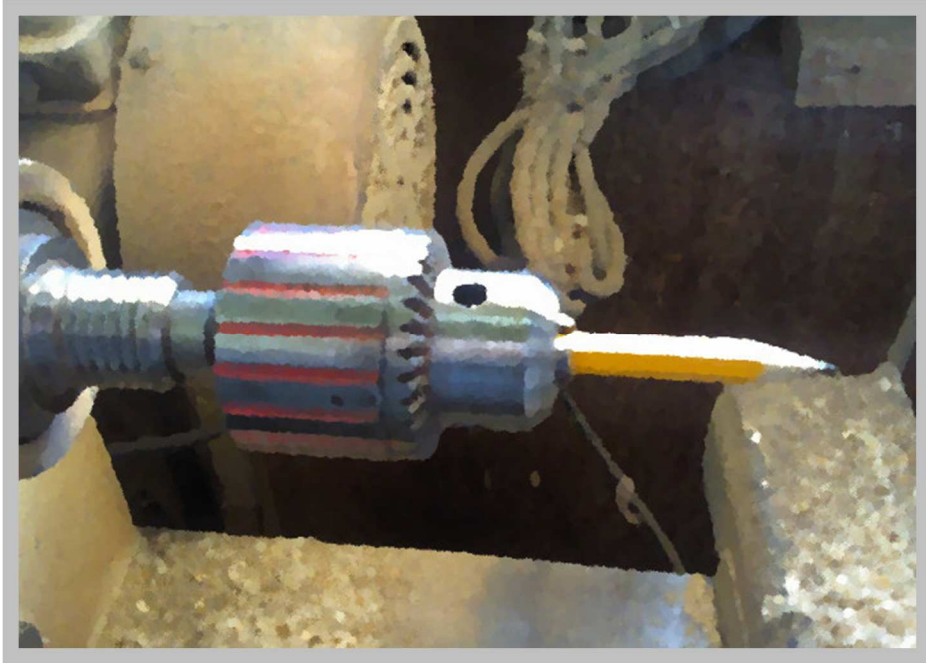
I frequently join in on discussions at a woodworking website, ([SawmillCreek.org](http://SawmillCreek.org)) and it occurred to me that others might get a kick out of this, too. Recalling Jeff Foxworthy's comedy routine, "You Know You're a Redneck If You....," I began a discussion that quickly became quite popular, so, with apologies to Foxworthy and thanks to the others who contributed, here are some of the replies:

**You know you're a woodturner if:**

- You clean your shop with a rake!
- When you have a wood pile outside your shop and you don't even have a fireplace.
- You know you're a woodturner when the rosewood handle of your awl is prettier than the gearshift knob on your neighbor's classic car.
- You realize you're a woodturner when you're willing to invest enormous amounts of money and travel great distances to attend "demos" and "symposiums".
- When there is thunder, lightning, and the electricity goes out, and you say, "Great news-- a tree just fell and knocked down a power line and I'm going out to look for it," everyone is convinced you're a woodturner.
- When you find yourself no longer able to draw a straight line and you realize that the term "board feet" has lost all meaning for you, you know you're a woodturner.
- And when there are more wood shavings than lint in your clothes dryer filter, you're a confirmed woodturner.
- You have begun to wonder why you bought that "tape measure" thing.
- You actively seek out bent, spalted and slightly rotten pieces of wood that you previously would have tossed in the fireplace.
- The word "piercing" no longer makes you think of women's navels but of the oddly shaped holes in your "latest piece".
- A "void" has become something to be desired, you've become a woodturner.
- When you go buy a chest deep freezer just to store green wood... or a microwave just to dry bowls.
- If you are prone to quoting the adage, "it's not thin enough" and the context has nothing to do with losing weight, you know you're a woodturner.
- When you tear out the bottom seam in your shop shirt pockets so they don't fill up with shavings you're absolutely a woodturner.
- You know you're a woodturner when you drink your coffee with wood chips in it.
- You KNOW you're a SEGMENTED BOWLTURNER when you purchase your glue a gallon at a time!

And finally, this one, which came up in my own shop this morning:

- There is NO DOUBT that you're a woodturner if you've ever sharpened a pencil using a lathe!



*I couldn't find a pencil sharpener, so I did what any turner would do..... (Photos by the author)*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**NEXT MONTH:** The Port Townsend School of Woodworking and Preservation Trades, <http://www.ptwoodschool.com/Home.html>, is offering two classes taught by Bonnie Klein; Beginning Woodturning and Foundations of woodturning. These classes will be taught in May and September of this year and information about each class can be found on their website: [http://www.ptwoodschool.com/beginning\\_woodturning.html](http://www.ptwoodschool.com/beginning_woodturning.html) [http://www.ptwoodschool.com/foundations\\_of\\_woodturning.html](http://www.ptwoodschool.com/foundations_of_woodturning.html)

**CREATIVITY IN WOODTURNING ~ July 26th, 2014:** Richard Raffan is a



well-known woodturner, author, and instructor who has helped popularize the craft of woodturning since the 1970s. He was a part of the "art turning" movement that saw turned objects move into galleries where they are presented as works of art. His books and videos have been instruction and inspiration for a whole wave of woodturners. Richard has had some health problems recently, and is considering retirement, so this may be your last chance to meet this extraordinary individual. The schedule is incredible, and it is only \$90 for early registration. Olympia is practically next door, considering an opportunity of this magnitude. A lot of thought and planning has gone into the whole symposium, you can check out a wealth of details and register on-line at

[http://www.woodturnersofolympia.org/?page\\_id=1740](http://www.woodturnersofolympia.org/?page_id=1740).

**March 6-8 of 2015:** The Oregon Symposium has a nice roster of demonstrators already lined up, including a few that have made presentations in Bremerton, and also including our own Dave Schweitzer. It is a long way off, and information is still a little sketchy, but you can keep an eye out for updates at <http://oregonwoodturningsymposium.com/Default.aspx>.

### Changes for August Picnic Announced

The annual picnic has traditionally taken the place of the August meeting, but now there will be a picnic in addition to the regular meeting. The meeting will be our regular meeting on the last Wednesday, and the picnic will become a more independent pot-luck affair, earlier in the month. Other changes to the picnic are being considered, including moving it to a more central location. Stay tuned, more details will be provided.

### FOR TURNING OR BURNING?

Larry Matkins

I really like wood. I like looking at it, touching it, smelling it, working with it, but I really like bringing out the beauty of a piece, and showing it off for best effect.

I started turning pretty late, and discovered that I wasn't born a talented woodturner, but with a fierce grip and a lot of determination and sandpaper, I could put out a pretty decent looking piece. I really started looking for ways to improve, and kept hearing that the best way to

learn turning is to turn. In the other word - practice. That was the best advice I ever had. But I could make pretty stuff while I was practicing, couldn't I?

A friend found out I was into woodturning, and gave me a bunch of beautifully figured maple, mostly music wood off-cuts, just so it wouldn't go to waste. So now I could make *really* pretty stuff. Which really slowed me down, because like I said, it takes a lot of sandpaper. I spent so much time sanding and finishing that I just didn't have much time left for turning.

I had to do something. First, I started hiding my mistakes so that I wouldn't have to fix them if my family happened to spot them in the scrap pile. Then I started turning some nicer pieces of firewood, mostly alder. Alder is a weed wood, a cheap wood, and I didn't have to care much if a piece didn't turn out just right. I didn't have to spend four or five times as many hours sanding and finishing as turning. Revelation! And along the way, I learned a greater appreciation for, and a lot of technique from, turning firewood.

Alder has its good points. It doesn't move much, so you can worry less about shrinking, drying, and cracking. It is soft enough for tear-out to be a significant problem, but the flip side is that you get to learn about sharpening tools and you get to practice your finish cuts. (I got my first really smooth finish cut on alder with a skew, and immediately started liking skew work. It is soft enough you can shoot a solid stream of shavings over your shoulder or all over your shop, or you can practice body position and movement on those long, curving, flowing cuts. You can practice. It doesn't matter if you screw it up. Just turn away. It is an attractive wood for the most part, but can show off some good figure and some amazing spalting, if you catch it right. It can be plain enough to be a good background for pyrography or other surface enhancements. Beeswax is a two minute finish that is perfectly suitable for firewood.

Firewood is excellent for making kitchen utensils and brownie points, and alder makes the best captive-ring baby rattles. The wood is so light and soft that it doesn't hurt the baby that is still working on that eye/hand coordination thing, and it must taste really good because the alder rattle is usually the baby's favorite toy around teething time. It is cheap, and it is available. It is a weed wood; you can stop mowing the back yard this year, and harvest alder next year. It is so plentiful that I can use a dozen bowl blanks to come up with a fairly well matched set of four bowls.

After turning alder for a couple of weeks, I chucked up another piece of that figured maple for a special little project, and was really amazed at how much easier it was to turn than before, and how much more it turned out to be the way I wanted it to be. I had learned some muscle memory practicing on alder, which really made a difference when addressing a less forgiving wood.

I looked on craigslist this morning, and green alder was as cheap as \$150 a cord. That's theoretically enough for 256 bowl blanks 12" diameter by 6" high at approximately 58.6 cents each. One madrone burl blank that size would probably be over \$300. There certainly is a place for firewood in the world of turning.

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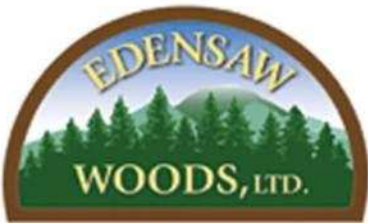
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## MENTORING PROGRAM

We are looking for some new mentors. The folks who are currently doing the great service have been doing it for a long time. See any of the board officers if you are interested. The mentoring programs has been set up to answer questions and give help to new members and those whom may be having a problem in a specific area. Although not intended to be free lessons in woodturning (many of those volunteering are professional turners and derive their income from turning and teaching), these are some friendly folks willing to give you a point in the right direction.

Dan Ackerman	Brinnon	(360)796-4155
"Tones" Briggs	Port Orchard	(360)271-6448
George Kromka	Bremerton	(360) 373-1028
Jim Leary	Kingston	(360) 297-5872
Bob Hickernell	Bremerton	(360) 479-5501

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