



CHATTERMARKS

September 2014
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Olympic Peninsula Woodturners
Olympic Peninsula Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners
P.O. Box 623 Silverdale, WA. 98383
www.OPCAAW.com

THESE ARE ORNAMENTS!



Tones Briggs is going to let us in on how to make the perfect holiday gift at this month's meeting.

If you've been to more than one or two meetings, you probably know Tones. He's one of our regulars, and one of our best. You can recognize him by his impressive knowledge and easy banter at the wood auction table and you hear his name a lot when expert advice is requested or quoted. He steps up at meetings where ever he is needed.

When it comes to woodturning, he has probably been there and done that. He has been one of the guild's most popular mentors for years, and has helped many of us become actual turners. He is versatile, and can talk just about any

aspect of woodturning, but his one achievement that always says seems to grab the center of attention is his holiday ornament. The picture shows some of his creations that were on display at last year's Christmas party. They are eye-catching and show-stopping, and he's going to show us how he does it on September 24.

The meeting starts at 6:30 P.M. Right after opening business, we will have show and tell, followed by the wood auction. It might be a good idea to take a look at the wood auction, you just might find the perfect piece of holly or ebony to make some finials for those ornaments. If you show up a little early, you can visit the library, or buy glue and sandpaper.

Good Advice!

By Russell Neyman.

OUR MENTORING PROGRAM IS, without a doubt, the most overlooked and under-utilized member benefit. The Olympic Peninsula Woodturners Guild Mentors are a select group of extremely gifted craftspeople who offer their wealth of knowledge to those who wish to elevate their skillset. They advise, inspire, and educate, often giving sound advice that will save time and money – not to mention the anguish.

And the Mentoring Program isn't just for beginners. I often wonder why more people don't take advantage of this and have concluded it's mostly because of ego. Few people who have been at this for a while are willing to admit that they need help and, fearing the label of "novice," simply remain silent preferring to stumble along learning lessons the hard way. Not that that's an end-all -- I can be as stubborn about these things as the next guy can – but there are several hundred years of combined knowledge in this group that is largely untapped.

So let's say you recently fell in love with woodturning and, perhaps, you've even acquired a lathe. What's the next step? What tools should you buy? A whole



Tones Briggs (left) and Jimmy Allen, shown here conducting the club's Show & Tell meeting segment, are two veteran woodturners who have been generous with their time. Photo by J. Louis King.

set, or just two or three? And what tools are a waste of your money? Do you really need a bandsaw? A drill press? A sharpening station? How should you arrange your shop to achieve maximum effectiveness?

Our Mentors can help with all of this, and it might only take a phone call or a casual conversation at a meeting to pay dividends.

There are other ways to use the program, too. It might be you started with a mini-lathe, concentrating on pens or other small items, and now you're looking for new adventures in woodturning. Perhaps you'd like to try

segmented turning, or even lidded vessels. Our Mentors can help you take that leap.

It should be noted that this is not intended provide formal training, but many members of our group do offer instruction for a fee.

We try to cover all the bases with this program, with individuals from all parts of the Olympic Peninsula and who also do most types of work. There is a list of them in every newsletter and on the website, along with contact information.

My personal "mentor" is Tones Briggs, who happens to live a few miles from my place in Port Orchard. Yes, I've been turning for more than a dozen years, sold thousands of dollars worth of bowls, and am currently shown in two galleries, but I still turn to Tones when I need to talk things over or get some inspiration. He's a great sounding board. Just last month he suggested I try a new lacquer and it turns out that passing suggestion has made a difference in my work.

Briggs is a versatile turner who is capable of doing just about anything, but I suppose if he has a specialization for which he's well known, it's his Christmas ornaments. Having said that, I can tell you that his hollow forms and decorative bowls are amazing. He'll be demonstrating his beautiful ornaments at this month's meeting.

Brad Stave is another veteran turner who I call to swap ideas, and he always has good input. His small shop in Gig Harbor is an interesting mix of old technology and modern equipment. He's a no-nonsense turner who follows time-proven techniques, knows how to get the most out of a wood blank, and is well-known among local galleries. Best of all, Brad is a veteran instructor.

Jim Leary is a demonstrator as well as a mentor. His niche is spindle work and decorative turnings, and he's made presentations to various clubs on pierced work and finials. He lives in Kingston, right in the center of our sphere of influence.

George Kromka, who can be gruff publicly but is, in fact, a generous and patient Mentor, is one of those who has helped countless woodturners elevate their skills through the years. George is fearless, and will tackle just about any sort of project. His shop is in Bremerton.

I do not know Bob "Hinkey" Hinkernell very well but I'm told his skillset is wide-ranging, and if you're looking for someone to help with fundamental bowl turning he's a good one to go to. He lives on the East Side of the Manette Bridge in East Bremerton.

There are other key people in our group who are de-facto Mentors. Lidded boxmaker Jimmie Allen is always free with his time, as is Dave Masters, one of the better-known segmenters. And heaven only knows how many individuals have been inspired and educated by Dave Schweitzer, owner of D-Way Tools in Shelton. I've probably forgotten a few key individuals, so apologies to those I omitted.

I'll close this discussion with one last anecdote about Dan Ackerman, who is a mentor and one of the founding fathers of the Olympic Peninsula Woodturners. He lives across the Hood Canal Bridge and has been turning for 30-plus years, and was there when the club first formed in 1988.

The question I hear most often at our meetings is, "Why do I get catches when I turn?" The other day I overheard Dan say this: "When you get a catch, shut off the lathe, stick the gouge into the catch, and re-create the 'scene of the crime.' You'll see, clearly, what went wrong – too harsh an angle, allowing the bevel to wander, whatever – and you'll learn a lesson."

Now, that's a smart man giving good advice! We have a few of those in our group.

► **BARB DAVIS HAS STEPPED UP** to take over the reins at the all-important Glue & Sandpaper Sales desk, but that leaves us with a void in her previous position of Club Librarian. It goes without saying that we need a replacement.

This is one of those club positions that are fairly low stress and you do not need to attend every meeting to be successful. The new library cart is taken out of storage and put away by the set up crews, so the basic assignment is to check through the notebook every now and then, occasionally copy a disk or cassette, and generally keep an eye out that the collection is organized.

If you're interested, send a note to President@OPCAAW.com or call 360-813-4484.



Don McIvor's presentation on virtually all types of finishes was the highlight of the August General Meeting. His handout is available on our website. Photo by J. Louis King.

► **THE LONG-AWAITED FINISHING** demonstration featuring Don McIvor was a big success, and he threw out a wealth of knowledge in a very short period of time. In fact, there was too much information! A special thanks goes out to Ralph Lindberg, our VP of Education, for doggedly pursuing an individual who was capable of articulating the many aspects of finishes.

An updated handout with expanded information on two-part epoxies and polyurethanes is available on our website (OPCAAW.com) in a downloadable pdf. The recent "Fifty Nifty Shop Tips" handout is also posted there.

► **AND, WE STILL NEED** a person to serve as a third member of the video crew. This position would only be needed when Jeff Childs or Tex Lewis is unable to be at the meeting. Please contact Jeff, who will provide training and handle scheduling.

► **DO YOU HAVE A LATHE FOR SALE?** Our membership ranks have grown considerably, and there are a number of people looking for a lathe. Feel free to post a notice about it on our club bulletin board or send in a note to Larry Matkins, our CHATTERMARKS editor, at Publicity@OPCAAW.com.

► **THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS** just around the corner, and that's why we will have Tones Briggs demonstrating turned Christmas ornaments this month. We've expanded his presentation to include some suggested project ideas that might make good gifts, and all members are encouraged to bring projects to Show & Tell that have worked well in the past.

Project kits are especially useful and are available at online sources and local retail stores. If you've been hoarding gift certificates from club contests, this might be a good time to cash them in. A few ideas worth considering include:

- Pen and pencils
- Bottle stoppers and corkscrews
- Pizza slicers
- Cheese slicers and cheese plates
- Cutting boards
- Rolling pins
- Flower vases
- Candle holders
- Salt and pepper shakers
- Refrigerator magnets
- Food and hair chopsticks

Another seasonal phenomenon is the surge in craft fairs and art shows, and many of our group sell their woodturnings this time of year. If you want to publicize an event in CHATTERMARKS, drop us a note at FEEDBACK@OPCAAW.com.

VERN'S SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

September safety note: Beyond eye protection

Face protection is different from eye protection. It requires different equipment. For turning, sanding, or operating a band saw, face shields are good. When running a chain saw preparing your wood blanks they are not up to the hazards. The best available are the wire mesh shields usually attached to a hard hat. Work and play safe, avoid health care services.

Vern West

MEETING PLANS IN THE WORKS

The September 24 meeting is when Tones Briggs shows us how he makes those exquisite Christmas ornaments of his.

For those interested in segmented turning as the next step, Norm Hix will be showing us on October 29.

November 19 (unusual date because of Thanksgiving) a shortened version of a symposium, featuring tool sharpening.

January 28 looks like the PNW wood artist, Steven Hatcher, will be joining us.

These plans are a little bit fluid always subject to change, of course. A speaker can cancel, or we can come up with a better or timelier topic. Our Training Chairman, Ralph Lindberg, is always looking for ideas and suggestions, and sometimes even volunteers. You can email Ralph at Training@opcaaw.com.

LOVE OUR GALLERIES! *By Larry Matkins*

Please take a few minutes to look at some of the old photographs of our Show and Tell items at <http://www.opcaaw.com/Gallery.html>, especially around the years 2010 and 2011. I love those old pictures. That is some seriously professional photography that created those pictures. I know it. I know because I have seen some of these items, and the photos do them justice. In fact, the photography usually enhances the actual items. Those pictures could easily be in a museum or gallery glossy trifold brochure, but they are here, in our club's photography archives.

I want that back. I sometimes work really hard to turn out an attractive piece, and I would love to see it isolated on a soft backdrop, gently gleaming, making a graceful statement, and looking as good as I thought it could. I would love to see my name displayed quietly beside that item, on the internet. I would like for the whole world to be able to see what I do, see what fascinates me so much and see the beauty I find in wood. I would like to be able to "Google" on my own name, and come up with something as fantastic as the items in our galleries to represent me to the world.

I want to get our galleries up and running. I think that maybe some of you would like to see that, too. I hope so, because I need help. I have the software and a little spare time. What I don't have is the pictures.

Good photographers are hard to find, and our official photographer, Louis King, has been required to travel a lot more frequently lately. He has been having trouble making it to our meetings, and we need someone to take pictures specifically for this purpose. Do any professional photographers want to step up and volunteer? How about amateur photographers? Hobbyists?

We can do this but it won't be easy. We will need one or two people to volunteer to cover every meeting, shooting the pictures, and the rest of the plan is still a little vague. Some training will be available from a club source, and more can be found. We have some equipment, such as lighting set-ups, but I don't know what else we may need. I don't think the club owns a camera, but a lot of members probably do own a perfectly fine digital camera that could be loaned or donated. We are not that far away from having that capability back again, but we need help.

If you are into photography and can share some knowledge, please let us know. If you have a camera or other photography equipment that we may need and you don't, let us know. If you have some time and want to do something worthwhile, email feedback@opcaaw.com.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

24 September, 6:30 pm,
Kitsap Adventist School
5088 NW Taylor Rd.
Bremerton, WA

With Social, Library, Show
and Tell Tables and wood
auction viewing before the
meeting starts.

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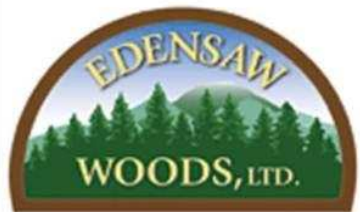
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MENTORING PROGRAM

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
Brad Stave	Gig Harbor	(253) 514-8562 bstave@comcast.net

Chapter Officers

President	Russell Neyman	(360)813-4484	President@opcaaw.com
Vice President of Education and Training	Ralph Lindberg	(360)779-5979	Training@opcaaw.com
Vice President of Public Relations	Larry Matkins	(360)551-1044	PublicRelations@opcaaw.com
Vice President of Membership	Schuyler Beaver	(360)698-4108	Membership@opcaaw.com
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Sergeant at Arms	Vern West	(360)479-8634	SargeantAtArms@opcaaw.com
Vice President of Special Events	Cindy Allen	(360)373-3041	SpecialEvents@opcaaw.com

OPCAAW Staff Positions

Librarian	Barb Davis	(360)373-1858
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Video Director	Jeff Childs	(360)765-3954
Cameraman	Tex Lewis	(360)698-3893
Audio Engineer	Stan Stumbo	(206)842-1458
Photographer	J. Louis King	(206)714-2324
Sand Paper and Glue Sales	Bob Flynn	(757)839-5270