



CHATTERMARKS

The eNewsletter for Woodturners of Western Puget Sound.

A Finishing Frenzy!

AT THIS month's general meeting, rather than have one presenter, we will be treated to sort of rotating stations where multiple presenters will be giving different presentations on the theme of finishing. Each station will have a talk of approximately the same length and repeated as often during the night as needed, so that you, the spectator, can rotate between stations and receive the same information as the group before you did. Didn't catch it the first time? Stay at the same station and go through it again.

That last stage of the project is so dang frustrating. We spend so much time in front of the lathe, getting the lines and the shape just right. Sharpen that tool again and make one last pass to reduce the time spent at sanding. And then we sand and sand anyway.

Then we are faced with the moment of truth where it's just us with a can of finish in one hand and a brush or cloth in the other. But what finish? There are so many. Do we texture and paint? Do we use lacquer? What about CA glue? I heard someone talking about that the other day. How big can the piece be before it's too big for CA?

And color? I saw a Show and Tell piece

the other day that had gorgeous coloring to it. How did he do that? What did he use?

From Shellac to wipe on Poly to oils and waxes, there is a huge world of finishes out there that absolutely is designed to confuse us to the point of paralysis.

So now is the time when you can get answers to all of your questions and maybe answers to questions you never knew you had. The lineup for presenters is some of the usual suspects

from the ranks of our membership. You'll be able to absorb years of experience and information from the likes of **Brad Stave, Russell Neyman, Larry Matkins, George Kromka, John Elliott, and Jimmie Allen.** There will, undoubtedly, be others. This promises to be one of the most useful workshops of the year.

Bring your note pad. Bring your questions. But most of all, bring your curiosity, as the club will endeavor to expose you to everything you ever wanted to know about finishes.

Editor's Note: in searching for the graphic for this piece, I found quite a treasure trove of finishing materials at Packard-woodworks.com—Jim Conway.



Regular meeting is Wednesday, September 30

Meet & Greet at 6 PM followed by introductions at 6:30.

Kitsap Adventist School Gymnasium 5880 NW Taylor Road Bremerton.

Other activities include

Refreshments, Show and Tell, Wood Auction, Tool Raffle Sandpaper & Glue sales.

See our website at

OPCAAW.COM

So, What DO You Want?

By Russell Neyman.

IT IS ONE of the biggest challenges that faces our leadership team: How do we put on club-sponsored demonstrations that address the needs of all segments of our membership?

If we devote a meeting to the intricacies of gold leaf inlays set into a paper-thin hollow form that displays an ornate glass finial, will that “turn off” the beginning woodturner who still struggles to find the angle of his bevel? And if we present a speaker who demonstrates the most rudimentary of turning choices — “Salad Bowls 101,” so to speak — do we risk boring the advanced woodturner to tears?

We ask ourselves: *What does the club want to see every month? What topics offer the most benefit? Have the choices we've made been the right ones?*

This would be a good time to speak up. Our Vice President of Training & Education, Brad Stave, is in the process of laying out a game plan and a budget for the 2016 program. You can drop him a note or make a suggestion at

Training@opcaaw.com

A year-and-a-half ago, we conducted a fairly formal survey, asking our membership what programs they'd like to see on stage. We provided a checklist that ranged from hollow forms to basic woodturning, from bottle stoppers to pens, and from tool selection to safety tips.

We also asked about various club services and which ones offered the most benefit. We queried about your preferred method of learning about club goings-on, too.

There were some surprises.

- 73% of the respondents said they wanted to learn more about finishing techniques and products. It's no accident that we brought in one expert last spring, and this week will be having another session with no less than six experienced craftspeople sharing knowledge.

- Requests for woodturning basics, lidded boxes, and hollow forms came from nearly two-thirds of our members, but we were surprised to learn that almost as many people wanted to learn more about segmented vessels. That was an eye-opener.

- Finials and other forms of ornamentation also scored fairly high on the responses — 35 to 45% — which tells us that there is a thirst for decorative woodturning.

- 46% indicated they wanted to see more demonstrations on tools and sharpening. There was only moderate interest in learning about lathes and other woodturning machinery.

- Very few respondents wanted to learn more about shop safety.

We noticed another trend. Most of the types of projects that could be considered “practical” scored in the lower half of the charts. People weren't especially interested in bottle stoppers, pepper mills, or children's toys. The trend, it would seem, is toward turning items that have an artistic appeal.

And this question: Why did people join our organization and, more importantly, which services are most valued?

Here, the responses were a bit puzzling. The top two responses were the monthly wood auction and glue and sandpaper sales, followed closely by Show & Tell. The actual monthly demonstrations rated lower, but not by much. That could mean that the voters were really telling us, “It depends on what the topic of the demonstration is....”

We took all this in together and have spent countless hours during the past year upgrading our audio/video systems, library and being more dependable about our glue and sandpaper sales. We *think* our demonstrators are varied and representative of what both entertains and inspires you, but we really can't be sure unless we hear back. •◀

It's not surprising that we are having our second major show on finishes within the span of a year. That's what the members said they wanted.

Competition!



"Use sandpaper like somebody else is paying for it."

—Anon.



The "Goblet, Scoop & Spoon" contest will take place at this month's meeting, with prizes given for each category. Entries will be judged for uniqueness, finish, and execution.

Place your entry on the Show & Tell Table prior to the meeting's start.

Calendar of events, shows, classes and other things

2015

September 30 —Monthly meeting	A Finishing Frenzy— Multi station demos on finishes.
October 28 —Monthly Meeting	25th anniversary celebration with 94 year old guest speaker Wally Dickerman
November 18 — Monthly meeting	Tool & Wood Swap Meet and ‘the Board Hoarder. Note: this is the Wednesday <u>before</u> our regular meeting date.
December 16 —Christmas Party	Pot luck dinner and raffle items with “Red Tickets”.

Turn the Lathe On, and They Will Come

Last year, the Olympic Peninsula Woodturners had a booth at the Kitsap County Fair. The idea was to expose the community as to who we are and what we do. The event generated lots of interest and several new members. So what do we do as an encore? This year we not only had a booth, but were live turning to show the people what can be done with a lathe.



Interesting phenomenon—As long as we were a static display, no body was interested. Ho-hum. The minute that the lathe was turned on and we started making noise, a crowd would show up. Young and old, alike. People were fascinated with what we were doing.

The bucket of tops that George has been collecting for months magically disappeared into the hands of an army of kids who, at one time, were all sitting on the floor around our booth, spinning their tops. So whoever was standing at the lathe was turning out more tops or sometimes little flowers from fresh cut stems. All of these got handed out to the spectators so that they could have something to remind them of us and our club.

As a preliminary to the KC Fair, we also had a one day booth at the Olalla Bluegrass Festival. Same scenario, different venue—Same result. People are very interested in what we do. Some have been exposed to it in their youth, some are drawn to it as a new expression of their artistic side.

If you didn't sign up for a shift at either fair, consider it for the next time. Other than standing on concrete for a couple of hours, the time went by quickly and we had lots of fun with the visitors and with each other.



Geisbush and Neyman showing their stuff at the Kitsap County Fair.

"Sandpaper is just another cutting tool."

- Dick Raffan

Tip Sharing

When you run into that really interesting web site or YouTube video on wood turning, don't keep it a secret. Share it with the members. Send it to me at OP-CAAW@gmail.com and we'll find a place to fit it in.

Here's one for this month—Glenn Lucas' videos on several projects. Only a few minutes long and no boring dialog. <http://blog.woodturnerscatalog.com/category/>

One of the 50

You've heard our club president, Russell Neyman, mention the "Nifty Fifty Shop Tips" in our meetings before. This was a collaboration between him and Tones Briggs, Ralph Lindberg and Brad Stave that has been presented at various other wood turning club meetings in the area. So here is just one.....

"Shirt Pocket Flaps—*I pretty much live in pocket tee shirts. My wife was always complaining about shavings in the pockets. I solved the problem with blue painters tape. I tape the pocket closed.*"

--Tim Rhinehart, North Carolina
Want to view a copy of the Fifty Nifties? Go to our website and look under "From our own Archives".

Jimmie Allen's Sawdust Session Postponed.

A special hands-on "sawdust session" organized by **Jimmie Allen** that was scheduled for October 11th has been postponed until after the first of the year. Jimmie and his wife, Cindy, are remodeling their home and "things are taking longer than expected."

"I just don't have enough time in my schedule to do this thing right, so I'm going to postpone it," he explained.

For those who have never been to said Sawdust Session, it is an informal gathering of turners. Some half dozen of our more experienced will be at different stations and be talking or demonstrating on a given topic. Some of the possible subjects might be tool control, making boxes, skew work, etc. Observers will have an opportunity to ask questions as well as have a hands on experience.

As the time draws nearer, details of who and what will be revealed. Watch this space, or somewhere near here, for more information. -JTC

Auction, Auction!

Don't have a lathe? Need to upgrade the old clunker? Your club has a real deal at this month's meeting. A donated Jet 12-36 variable speed lathe will be auctioned off. So grab your checkbook and make it on down to the meeting! The lathe is mounted on its own wooden platform with a large off/on switch at knee level. It is a



Reeves drive variable speed and is in top shape. We've used it at the last two fairs, and it works great! (Barb Davis is shown using it at the Kitsap County Fair, at right)



As an added bonus, Russell Neyman has donated a matching steadyrest, which makes this a formable piece of machinery. Proceeds will go into the video upgrade fund for the enhancement of our meetings.. -JTC

**Vern's
Safety
Corner**



You may want to take a close look at your shop—its organization and cleanliness. Note the photo above and use it as a guide. Notice the way that it is not cluttered. Notice that you never have to step over anything to move around the shop, thus avoiding any potential slips and falls. Closer look shows all sharp edges are rounded off to prevent bruising. Note how everything is in its place and well organized. You, too, could change your storage methods to avoid having volatile chemicals spread all over the shop. Make sure exposed nails, wire, hooks and dowels do not protrude such that they can catch loose clothing as you pass by. — **Vern West**.

"The safest thing you can do with a lathe is not turn it on."

- Russell Neyman

Video Marketing

The Woodworker West Magazine suggests that if you are making or considering to make a video on wood turning, that you look into marketing them on Vimeo, a video website. With *Vimeo on Demand* you can sell viewings and keep 90% of the revenue, after transaction costs. For more information, visit the web site www.vimeo.com/starselling.

However, if you are going to do that, you might want to have a couple of brutally honest friends to tell you if your video is good, clear and short enough to hold someone's attention or if it stinks. In the mean time, check out the video link on page 4.—JTC

net makers, instrument and bow makers, boatbuilders, lamp makers, and carvers. The Olympic Peninsula Wood Turners will have a booth and possibly be turning live like we did in the Kitsap County Fair. Volunteers to man (person) the booth will be gladly accepted.—JTC



Yellowstone Turning Symposium

The Yellowstone Woodturners will host their 2015 Wood Turning Symposium on September 26-27 in Great Falls, MT. Featured demonstrator will be Alan Carter of Asheville, NC. For more information go to their web site www.yellowstoneturners.org or call **Ron Velin** at 406-679-0902—JTC

Woodworker's Show in Port Townsend

The Woodworker's Show of Port Townsend will have its 7th annual show on November 7 & 8 at the American Legion Hall on Water Street. Booths will be showing local wares of furniture and cabi-

A JET 12-36 LATHE will be auctioned off to the highest bidder at this month's general meeting. It features a variable speed "continuous transmission" drive, a custom stand, as well as a faceplate and drive spur. As a bonus, we've added a sturdy steel stead rest for turning jars and hollow forms.

The lathe was donated to the club by member Jeff Brody. We cleaned it up, replaced the drive belt, and painted the chassis. It runs quite smoothly.

The lathe auction will be held at the end of the regular wood auction and will be open to members and non members. This machine currently sells new for about \$900.

See the additional article and photographs about the lathe on page five.

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THE D-WAY TOOLS CBN WHEEL raffle will continue this month at \$5 per ticket. This is an 80-grit model that Dave Schweitzer used very slightly for a demonstration. New, they sell for \$185. You do not need to be present to win.

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WE ARE INDEBTED to the following members who helped us out at the Kitsap County Fair, Olalla Bluegrass Festival. And Washington State Fair. They did plenty of live demonstration, help set-up the display, and generally spread the word about our multi-faceted organization. Individuals who worked more than one shift have an asterisk beside their name. They are:

- Dave Schweitzer
- Ralph Lindberg
- Ellen Winnie
- Jeff Brody
- Pete Gerstel
- Larry Matkins
- Brad Stave
- Mary James
- Jim Conway
- Barb Davis
- David Rase
- Tony DeCarlo*
- Troy Kellington
- Louie King
- Russell Neyman*
- Larry Lemon
- Jim Rodgers*
- George Kromka* and Karen
- John Clauson*
- Ray Ewing
- Jon Geisbush*
- Toby Martin
- Vern West*

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LOOKING FORWARD TO 2016, we will be electing a new slate of officers. If you would like to participate, either as a board member or as one of the club's staff, please drop a note to PRESIDENT@opcaaw.com, or call Russell Neyman, 360-813-4484

At this time, we do not have a nominee for the position of Sergeant at Arms. This individual supervises the meeting setup and snack bar. All of the other Board positions have at least one nominee (most of the current officers are running for re-election) but that does not mean that you can't nominate yourself or nominate a friend.

The election will be conducted by one or more of our past presidents at the November meeting.

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FROM TIME TO TIME it occurs to us that we might become a formal 501c non-profit organization. Frankly, we really don't know if that is a good idea or not. As we understand it, it would allow us to qualify for some grants and allow us to give donors an official "tax deductible" receipt, but there would be much more bookkeeping and tax filing required too.

If you have a thought on this matter – especially if you have experience with 501c organizations – drop an email note to TREASURER@opcaaw.com.

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THE NOVEMBER MEETING will be unusual in several ways. First, because of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, the meeting will take place one week earlier on the 15th instead of the usual last Wednesday of the month. As often as we remind people, there is always someone who doesn't get the message, and a few days later we get a note, "*Why didn't you tell me?!*" We have.

We've taken this opportunity to have a large-scale Tool Swap Meet & Wood Sale that will be open to the public. The featured speaker will be Steve Bartocci, aka "The Board Hoarder." He is extremely knowledgeable about wood species and their characteristics, and will bring a large selection of exotic bowl blanks for you to peruse.

We will have a short instructional workshop on "How to Prepare Bowl Blanks" by the mentors. We hope to have a chainsaw and bandsaw on site. —RN

"A bowl is nothing more than a large bead with a cove in it."
(Anon)

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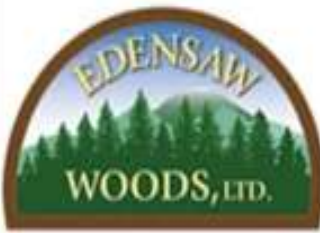


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Jim Conway,
Editor

The Mentoring Program

The OPCA AW Mentors are a select group of artisans and professionals who we have designated to promote, encourage, and guide novice and intermediate woodturners within our organization. Mentors provide counsel on subjects like shop setup, equipment purchase, safety, wood preparation and specialized skills. These are some friendly folks willing to give you a point in the right direction.

While not actually a formal training program, meetings with mentors often become just that. In some cases, advanced formal instruction is available for an hourly rate.

OPCA AW Mentoring is available only to members. Please bring your current badge with you to the first session.

The current Mentors are:

Dan Ackerman (Brinnon)	360-796-4155
Tones Briggs (Port Orchard)	360-271-6448
Bob Hickernell (Bremerton)	360-479-5501
George Kromka (Bremerton)	360-373-1028
Jim Leary (Kingston)	360-297-5872
Jim McFarland (Shelton)	903-352-9807
Brad Stave (Gig Harbor)	206-910-5459

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**"If you don't
blow up a
bowl every
now and
then,
you aren't
trying hard
enough."**

**-- Dick Raffin,
Master
Woodturner**

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