



CHATTERMARKS

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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

MYSTERY OF THREADING WOOD REVEALED

Larry Miller's presentation focuses on three methods of threading wood for the February meeting.



Larry Miller started turning wood in high school and still has the first bowl he made and his mother used for over 40 years until her passing. He started turning again 20 years ago but didn't get seriously involved until about 12-15 years ago. He is the founder and past president of the Woodturners of Olympia club. He has taught several hundred students in his shop from ages 7 and up, where he has 7 lathes. He is the AAW Symposium coordinator for the youth program, has demonstrated at many clubs in the Pacific Northwest, and written a number of articles for national publications on woodturning.

Visit <http://www.woodturnerlarry.com/> to see some of his creations, where his artistry and ability are on display. You can also see some of the classes he offers and check out his teaching availabilities. Larry prefers to make

functional items with a lot of eye appeal. He likes finding his treasures in wood harvested for environmental purposes or "fire wood".

He will be discussing techniques for putting threads on woodturnings and the advantages and disadvantages of each technique. After the discussion, he will demonstrate the three different methods: hand chased; using alternate material for the thread; and use

of the Klein threading jig. Larry will bring several finished threaded pieces showing the benefit of a threaded lid over a pressure fit lid on boxes.

The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26, but come a little early and you will have a chance to enjoy some light refreshment, visit with other turners, preview the show-and-tell tables, browse our lending library, stock up on glue and sandpaper, and check out the wood arriving at the auction tables. Some of these activities are restricted to members only, but guests are always welcome to attend and see what we have to offer.

Horsetrading: The Hunt for a Better Lathe

By Russell Neyman

IT MIGHT SERVE SOME OF YOU WELL to learn about my lathe and how it came to be in my shop, especially if you're just starting to assemble your own equipment. It's a mid-sized Jet, and I would rate it "above average" when it comes to performance and capability. The truth is, I paid very little for it, obtaining it through a lot of wheeling-and-dealing and a good measure of luck. That's why this is worth sharing.



Photo of RN at his Jet 1442 Variable Speed lathe by Louie King.

Woodworking has been part of my life since I was a young boy. I recall building bookshelves and tables with my father, and was always working with my hands. My grandfather owned one of the first Shopsmith Mark V's ever made, and when he passed on my father inherited it, and it eventually was given to me. Those units are billed as five tools in one, capable of being a table saw, drill press, shaper, jointer, plate sander and lathe. The idea is that you can have an entire shop in the floor space of a motorcycle.

The lathe operation is a compromise; the minimum speed is generally too fast for roughing a blank, and the frame too light to deal with the inevitable vibration inherent in turning bowls. Nevertheless, that's where I started a dozen years ago, clumsily

jabbing at a six-inch piece of curly maple with a cheap skew chisel my grandfather owned and learning to avoid catches the hard way. I made do with the Shopsmith for about three years.

From the very first bowl (see the inset, next page) I loved making pieces of round art and my work was well received. There's something magical about digging into the grain looking for beauty and texture. Despite the lathe's shortcomings I managed to win a few County Fair ribbons, but the technology available in my shop was extremely limited.

Then, nine years ago, a friend introduced me to the Olympic Peninsula Woodturners. That first meeting, when I saw the items brought for the Show & Tell, my jaw dropped. I imagine that others will say the same thing; that the work this group does is extremely humbling to the novice

turner. I saw that my seat-of-the-pants, School of Hard Knocks approach to turning was coming to an end. *It was time to get serious.*

So, I studied books and videos in earnest, attended trade shows, discussed techniques with other turners, and watched the demonstrations more closely. The OPCAOW members showed me a variety of new tools and a higher level of technology. I began a search for a better lathe.

Within a month, I found a simple three-speed, belt-driven $\frac{3}{4}$ horsepower General Machinery lathe on Craigslist with a small assortment of chisels thrown in for good measure. It wasn't great, but better than what I had. I paid \$195 dollars for everything, selling the Shopsmith for \$350 the following weekend. I already had a table saw and drill press, so the old machine would find a new home. With the money left over, I purchased a Nova Chuck and a Sorby gouge-- on sale, of course!

The Craftsman was still a bit lightweight, so I swapped the motor for a more robust one that I had in my storage shed, and built out the base so that it would hold ballast. I also changed the pulleys to make it a five-speed, further enhancing the machine's capabilities.

With that, I began to turn larger, more complex vessels as big as 12 inches, including my first hollow form. Vibration was still an issue, but the results were promising. People came in to my shop to watch me turn - there is something quite mesmerizing about watching shavings fly off of a lathe - frequently asking what they'd need to get started in the craft.



My first bowl, Curly Maple, and Walnut

To that point, I had a working rig, plenty of tools, a nice chuck, and hadn't invested a dime.

That served me well enough for about two more years, but I had been sucked well into the "vortex of woodturning" and hankered for another step up. On a visit to Edensaw, the guy behind the counter noted that the slightly-dinged 14-inch Shop Fox floor model was available, and he sold it to me for \$500. I sold the now-upgraded Craftsman for \$275 to one of those passersby who wondered about becoming a woodturner, agreeing to spend a day with him showing him how to use it. I kept the chuck and most of the tools for a net expenditure to date of \$225. That was six years ago.

Now, the Shop Fox is a knockoff of the Jet I have now. It was more capable than what I had owned previously, but I immediately discovered its shortcomings. The parts didn't fit well, the motor was underpowered, and things were breaking left and right. The tool rest system, in particular, was sub-par. To really get into advanced turning - to handle the large natural edge bowl blanks -- I needed something with more power and weight.

The Jet 1442 entered my shop less than a year thereafter, about when my patience with the Shop Fox had worn thin. A gentleman in Tacoma had purchased new it on a whim at a trade show, thinking, "Hey, this turning business will be fun." Truth is, he was really a car mechanic, accustomed to the solidity and predictability of metalworking. He became frustrated by things that were round one day and oblong the next, and his wife's housekeeping habits ran contrary to wood shavings in their parlor. His ad gave me a negotiating clue: "*Wife says it's gotta go!*" After a bit of dickering, we agreed to a price of \$675, and he threw in two more chucks (a large One-Way, plus a generic three-jaw unit), a whole pile of Robert Sorby tools, and about twenty large bowl blanks. I agreed to return with a bowl for his wife, which I did.

Within a week I sold the Shop Fox, for \$550, more than I paid for it.

The "new" lathe is a Model 1442VS, which means it's theoretically capable of turning an object 14 inches in diameter and 42 inches long, and the "VS" indicates it has variable speed

capability. The power head pivots, allowing me to turn objects larger than the 14-inch size as long as I don't need a tailstock. The motor is a 120-volt, 1-horsepower unit, and the frame is heavy cast iron. It has an internal, belt-driven Reeves gearbox operated by a lever, with no need to manually change pulley belts. One of the specific needs I have is a low speed to handle roughing blanks, and the 1442 has a speeds range of 400 to 3000 rpm. I figure it weighs 500 pounds, and I have it "anchored" with another 600 pounds of sand bags mounted on a shelf I added to the stand. That stability allows me to tackle irregular objects with relative ease.

So that's four lathes in twelve years of woodturning. The running total for my out-of-pocket costs, adding and subtracting for machines bought and sold, is about \$200. Yes, I've added another \$500 in various sharpening systems, additional jaws, one additional chuck, and specialized gouges, but my entire set-up cost me a fraction of what it should have. Perhaps the art of the deal has as much appeal as saving money, testimony to my Pennsylvania Dutch heritage. Finding the machine, negotiating a good price, and selling the old one for a profit is very satisfying.

I'm guessing that the journey I've taken is similar to that of others, and some members will use this as a road map for their own upgrades. I'm extremely happy with the lathe I have now, but-- *I'm already looking around for the next deal!*

* * *



Brad Stave (above), and his curly maple 3-D art piece that won first place at the Washington State Art Show.

WOW! BRAD STAVE'S 19-inch curly maple, disk-shaped sculpture (pictured above) earned him a First Place in the 3-D Category at the Seventh Annual Washington State Art Show. The show featured 777 different pieces, ranging from paintings to photographs to three-dimensional work, and 117 of those were selected to be shown at the Collective Visions Gallery.

The show will run through the end of February at 321 Pacific Avenue, in Bremerton. Congratulations, Brad! We're proud to have you among us!

* * *

THE EMPTY BOWL EVENT, which happens to be one of Brad Stave's pet projects, is coming in March. In a nutshell, donated work -- it can be anything from a simple bowl to ornamental artwork -- will be auctioned off to create a fund to support hungry families in Kitsap County. For more information, contact Brad at 206-910-5459.

* * *



Pete Gerstel does incredibly intricate turnings using metalworking techniques and blackwood (below and left). He is one of several OPCAOW members who will host an "Open Shop" in the coming weeks. Photos by Louie King

THE OPCAOW MOTTO for 2014 is "Elevate!" - *Elevate your skills, elevate your fellow woodturner, and elevate the art.* As part of that effort, the Olympic Peninsula Woodturners are encouraging members to hold Open Shop Events.

These are casual turning events hosted by individual woodturners to provide more "hands on" experience in a small group setting. Obviously, space will be limited, and if you wish to join in you will need to call first. In the coming weeks, the following OPCAOW members will be hosting:

Dave Masters, Friday, March 7th, Noon-3:00 pm
 Featured: Segmented Bowl - Limit 3 persons
 1339 Colchester Drive, Manchester 98366
 RSVP 360-871-1343

Peter Gerstel, Saturday March 1st, 10:00 am - Noon
 Featured: Machined Blackwood Boxes - Limit 6 persons.
 1660 NW Nassau Court, Poulsbo
 RSVP 360-697-6150

Russell Neyman, Friday, March 21st, 3:00-6:00 pm
 Featured: Small hollow form - Limit 5 persons
 1725 Yukon Harbor Road, Port Orchard 98366
 RSVP 360-813-4484



If you'd like to hold your own Open Shop, simply invite a few fellow members to come spin some wood with you. Of course, we'll do what we can to help publicize it, announcing it here upon request, but these are informal affairs that often are spontaneous.

* * *

A COUPLE OF ITEMS have gone missing, and we're asking club members to look around on the outside chance they'll turn up.

The first is the club grinder, and it's clearly marked "OPCAOW." We suspect it ended up in a car trunk or was stored in an unexpected location. Also missing is the handheld microphone,

last seen at our November general meeting. If you have any ideas where we might look, contact the Sergeant at Arms during the next meeting.

* * *

HOW ABOUT THOSE SEAHAWKS!

I can attest to the demand for commemorative footballs, not only for the Super Bowl Champions but also for the local college and, even, high school teams. I turned this one, which happens to be fiddleback maple, 11" x 7", with leather lacing. I sold it at a local sports bar to the highest bidder, leaving the party with orders for several more.

Just an idea that I thought was worth passing along. -RN

* * *

THE THREE-LEGGED STOOL

CONTEST will be judged at this month's meeting, and it will be interesting to see what creative directions our members have taken. Will we see large and practical stools for the kitchen? What about those sized for children? And will anyone make a miniature, doll-sized piece? What about inlays and segmented seats?

There will be two categories (seat diameters 11" and larger, and anything smaller than that) and gift certificates to Craft Supplies will be given as prizes.

* * *



THE NEXT STEP

OPCAAW offers a lot of learning opportunities, from our presentations and demonstrations, to our library of books and DVDs, to hands-on tutoring through our mentoring program. Here are a few special opportunities you may want to check out.

IN MARCH, OUR OWN CLUB IS PRESENTING: One of Puget Sound's more popular speakers will be back in early March to demonstrate multiple-axis turning. **Eric Lofstrom**, who recently de-mystified the skew chisel and who has enlightened us with methods of adding color and ornamentation of vessels, will show up to eight woodturners how to turn wood on multiple centers in a special day-long class sponsored by OPCA AW.

This is a technique that results in extraordinary bowls and art objects but can be applied to table legs, hollow forms, pepper grinders, and other shapes. For turners who are looking

to expand their scope of work, this could be a watershed moment, leading to a whole new avenue for experimentation. The class project will be a fish turned on three axes, a playful expression of Eric's upbeat personality. The limited class size guarantees that everyone will leave with plenty of individual attention. Eric is a career school teacher with an artistic flair and an enthusiastic approach to woodworking. He has been turning for more than a decade, sharing what he has learned with woodworking groups throughout the Pacific Northwest. For more information about Eric, plus samples of his work, including other objects turned with multiple axis techniques, go to <http://www.ericlofstrom.com/>.

When: Sunday, March 9th, 2014

Where: Chico Adventist School Gym

Hours: All day (10 am to 5 pm)

Fees: \$100 per Participant

Needed: Variable speed lathe, tools (per list provided) and a lunch.

Class Size: 4-8

RSVP: Ralph Lindberg 360-779-5979 or TRAINING@OPCAAW.COM

March, 2014, FROM THE Fraser Valley Woodturners Guild in Abbotsford B.C.

Hello

I am writing from the Fraser Valley Woodturners Guild in Abbotsford B.C.
to announce our upcoming event: Molly Winton

Molly will be holding a one day demonstration plus a Workshop for those who would like to participate 'hands-on'. The workshop is limited to 8.

I have attached 2 feature brochures, one provides particulars for the Day Demo, another for the Workshop
Would it be possible for you to do one or all of the following:

- include our posters in your February newsletter
- email these posters to each of your membership
- announce this event to your members at each of your meetings leading up to the event (March 14th, 2014)- please remind your members that this is a Bring Your Own Lunch event, as there are no eateries within walking distance. Anything you do will be greatly appreciated.

In advance, Thanks so much.

Beverley Pears, Secretary, Fraser Valley Woodturners Guild

Our website is www.fvwg.ca

Editor's note: The posters were not included because of size limitations. If you want these posters, send a letter to PublicRelations@opcaaw.com, and I'll send them to you as attachments.

From Port Townsend: BONNIE KLIEN CLASSES

The Port Townsend School of Woodworking and Preservation Trades is a 501(c) (3) educational and charitable corporation located in Port Townsend, Washington. The mission of the school is to

inspire a lifelong passion for craftsmanship through education in woodworking and traditional trades. Information about the school can be found at: <http://www.ptwoodschool.com/Home.html>

We offer a significant number and variety of classes each year varying from 2 days to 12 weeks. There are two classes we think might be of specific interest to your organization; Beginning Woodturning and Foundations of woodturning. Both are being taught by Bonnie Klein who, in 2003, was awarded the American Association of Woodturners Honorary Lifetime Membership in recognition of her contributions to woodturning. Information about Bonnie can be found here: http://www.ptwoodschool.com/bonnie_klein.html

These classes will be taught in May and September of this year and information about each class can be found on our website:

http://www.ptwoodschool.com/beginning_woodturning.html http://www.ptwoodschool.com/foundations_of_woodturning.html

March, 2015, in Oregon

Terry Gerros here.

I believe I sent most you an email last June regarding a woodturning symposium we were considering putting on in 2015. I am sending out an update regarding our symposium. Most important, we have a firm date, March 6-8, 2015. Yes it is a ways off, but as my father always said, plan ahead as time moves quickly. The symposium will be held at the Linn County Expo Center in Albany, OR. The expo center is right on I-5 for easy access. The main hall where our vendors, instant gallery and banquet will be is 21,000 SF. The perfect size for our first symposium. We have 4 conference rooms for our demonstrators which will comfortably hold 70 people each. As for demonstrators, so far our lead demonstrators include Mike Mahoney, Trent Bosch and Kirk DeHeer. We have a few others in mind and still working on things. We shall also have several of our top regional demonstrators. There are ample hotel accommodations, two of which are on site and four others within 2 miles of the expo center. For those who want to fly in with their private planes, the Albany Airport is within 700 feet of the expo center.

We are also organizing a spouses program which we hope to include egg painting, quilting, crochet, calligraphy, local tours and shopping and whatever else we can come up with. We are very excited about this upcoming event and want to make it second to none. So, if you have suggestions and recommendations, please feel free to let me know. This is about you, the woodturner, so don't be shy about making suggestions. Hope to see you in March, 2015.

Editor's note: *Terry didn't leave any additional info, but his address is: gerrost@yahoo.com.*

CLUB MEMBERS STEPPING UP

Many thanks to Bob Flynn for his volunteer work on a couple of fronts. A while back, Bob volunteered to help out Barb Davis with her Library responsibilities. Since then he has stepped up even further to assume the duties of Glue and Sandpaper sales. His efforts have

ensured that we have these supplies available, and he has our heartfelt thanks, but now we need someone else to step up and help out with the Library. If you can help, please contact one of the Officers by e-mail, or Barb Davis during the meeting.

WOODTURNING SAFETY

Here's an old tip that has been around for a long time. Fill a couple of empty dish soap squirt bottles with water and keep them in your shop. Having the water on hand the second a hot spot or fire starts can make the difference in averting a disaster.

OUR LENDING LIBRARY

We have DVDs, books, and magazines that cover a lot of area associated with wood turning, but we need your help to make it better. If you would like to see a specific publication, please let us know and we will do what we can to obtain it.

This library started from donations, and still relies on donations to a large extent. We do have a budget for the library, but it is limited and we just can't afford to provide all the materials we would like. You can help a lot by bringing in any that you may have and donating it to the library. It doesn't have to be just woodturning, either. Related topics like wood finishing, art and design, or wood carving and sculpting are also welcome.

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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	(360)796-4155
"Tones" Briggs	(360)871-7607
George Kromka	(360) 373-1028
Jim Leary	(360) 297-5872
Bob Hickernell	(360) 479-5501

Chapter Officers

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Vice President of Public Relations	Larry Matkins	(360)551-1044	PublicRelations@opcaaw.com
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Vice President of Special Events	Cindy Allen	(360)373-3041	SpecialEvents@opcaaw.com

OPCAAW Staff Positions (appointed)

Librarian Librarian	Barb Davis	(360)373-1858
Video Director Cameraman	Jeff Childs Tex Lewis	(360)765-3954 (360)698-3893
Audio Engineer	Stan Stumbo	(206)842-1458
Photographer	Dan Marler	(360)638-2939
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