



# 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](http://www.OPCAAW.com)

## GLENN SCHAFFER DOES BUMPS AND GROOVES IN MAY

Glenn Schaffer is the Police Chief of Chehalis. He is also a respected member of the Woodturners of Olympia, and an artist in his own right. Glenn will be doing a presentation on textured rims, the one at right in particular.

Glenn moved to Washington a little over seven years ago, from Aspen, Colorado. He started woodturning roughly six years ago and has been on the board of directors for the Woodturners of Olympia since 2012. He states that "My woodturning interests are ever changing and I rarely duplicate the same project for very long, which is what keeps this hobby fascinating for me."



**Glenn Schaffer**

Glenn's artistic and creative abilities have to be seen in order to be believed, and you can see a lot of his work on his

web page at <http://www.glennschaffer.com/>. It is hard to believe that he has only been turning for six years. Browsing through his gallery, a person wonders where all of his ideas came from. He is going to try to share some of that with us. Besides showing us how he does his textured rims, he is going to discuss inspiration and making ideas your own.

If you are past the point of having to focus entirely on body control and tool technique, maybe you are ready to take the next step, and learn how to make your creations more attractive. Come to the meeting. The meeting starts

on Wednesday, May 28 at 6:30, with Show and Tell, followed by the wood auction, before getting on with Glenn's presentation.



**The textured rim**

# Sourcing Wood

By Russell Neyman

**THERE IS A HUGE** pile of figured wood on the greenbelt outside my shop, and you might be interested to learn how it got there. While I'm at it, I think I'll share a few tips on finding good bowl blanks.

The locals in my neck of the woods are accustomed to seeing me with my most recent project in hand: a bowl, small jar, or just a bottle stopper. "Why do you always carry those with you?" one onlooker asked the other day.

"Well," I explained, "first and foremost, the art of taking a raw piece of wood and crafting a round object seems to elicit a smile. More times than not, people I encounter enjoy looking at them. They come up, turn the piece in their hands, smell it, feel it, and ask questions about how it was made and what species of wood is involved. Most people have a natural curiosity about the woodturning process."

As president of the Olympic Peninsula Woodturners, I consider promotion and recruitment part of my job description. Roughly half of the people engage me in conversation over woodturning say they'd like to learn more – I imagine other woodturners experience similar interest from onlookers – so I invite them to come to our meetings. I describe our Show & Tell, Mentoring Program, and extensive library, assuring them that if they decide to give woodturning a try; they'll get plenty of support from the group.

But there are other reasons I carry these things (and business cards) with me: I sell quite a few wedding gifts and funerary urns, and if the public associates me with that sort of thing, I stand a good chance of getting a call when Aunt Lily passes away or when a niece gets married. It's good for business.

An unexpected bonus to the woodturning persona is that I get lots of wood given to me. A large portion of those who talk about woodturning will say, "I have a large tree that I cut down last week. Would you like to come get some of it?" Even more surprising are the unannounced contributions that turn up. A pickup truck will show up, and somebody I barely know will offload huge chunks of spalted maple or fiddleback, adding to the stack outside my shop door. I have lots of chestnut, Port Orford cedar, maple, cherry, and madrone – more than I could turn in a year.

I should explain that I also have a drying shed, where bagged and treated blanks are stacked to the roof, so this pile is, truly, a bonus. It allows me to make monthly contributions to our wood auction.

My bowl-carrying self-promotion is just one trick that allows a woodturner to locate good, turnable wood. Getting to know the Puget Sound Energy crews is another method of finding madrone or alder, and more than once I've gotten a phone call from one of the line crews telling me that a tree that knocked out power in my neighborhood is lying by the roadside ready to be picked up.

Loggers are a good source, too. They're only interested in harvesting timber, so the crooked, burly pieces have very little interest. Calling the logging foreman and inviting him for a beer once every few weeks pays wonderful dividends.

Sourcing good wood is one of the first challenges facing a beginning woodturner. Too often, those who are new to the craft choose lousy wood during their initial experiments - fir, for example, will frustrate most people - while they would be better served using madrone or some other tight-grained wood.

I'd say that roughly two thirds of my bowl blanks are obtained for free and only a fraction is purchased through the traditional retail stores. Sure, when I need a piece of ebony or white holly for a finial, I visit Rockler or Edensaw or The Board Hoarder, but those are special needs for special occasions. Of course, our monthly wood auction often features some extraordinary species, too, and buying it there supports our group.

But, in truth, the bulk of my material seems to simply show up outside my shop.

\* \* \*



*OPCAAW Mentor George Kromka shared his considerable skills at the April meeting. Handling the skew is Ellen Winnie. Photo by J. Louis King.*

**AS A SPIN-OFF** of last month's "Apologies to Jeff Foxworthy" essay, I made a recommendation that our members visit the Sawmill Creek website, <http://www.sawmillcreek.org>

I first visited it three years ago when I was trouble-shooting problems with my lathe's ON/OFF switch, and immediately got help from other woodturners.

It's a quite complete and wide-ranging source of information and commentary for all types of woodworking, but especially for turners. It's free, and several OPCAOW members are regular contributors, including myself.

\* \* \*

**OUR WOODTURNERS'** Open Shop series rolls on, and actual events will be announced at our next meeting as well as Facebook. To encourage all of you to participate, the Board of Directors has decided to reward those who host, giving three Christmas Party Raffle Tickets to those who share their woodshop with other members, and one ticket if you've attended one.



Now, these are informal affairs put on by individual members so that one individual can see how others do things. Sometimes they have featured technical discussions, but often it's just a bunch of people with a shared interest in woodturning getting together and socializing.

Be sure to tell our Membership Chairman, Schuyler Beaver, that you've participated in an Open Shop when you sign in for May's meeting.

\* \* \*

**WE NEED A VOLUNTEER** with moderate cabinetmaking skills to build a specialized bookcase for our video and magazine library. The idea is that we will develop a portable, well-organized cart containing all our videos, books, and magazines that can be wheeled out for each meeting, eliminating the need to dig through those old boxes and suitcases. The club will cover the cost of materials.

If you're looking for a short-term way to lend a hand – lots of members want to help but can't make a regular commitment for time -- Russell Neyman at 360-813-4484.

\* \* \*



*The live "broadcast" of our demonstrations is a critical component of our meeting, thanks to Jeff Childs (seated, background, watching Robo Hippy turn two months ago) and his crew.*

**AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT** of lending a hand, we'd like to add a third individual to the Video Crew of Jeff Childs and Tex Lewis. This individual would fill in when the presentations are especially complex or when there is an absence.

Contact Jeff at 360-303-7074.

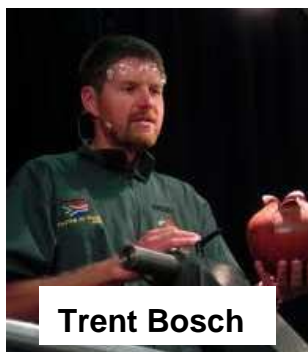
\* \* \*

**WE LOCATED THE MISSING** microphone! Now we have TWO handheld mikes (which will be very useful) but we never located the club sharpening station. Dave Schweitzer has generously donated a D-Way CBN wheel and an angle jig, and the club has managed to purchase a suitable bench grinder. We now have the basics, and can add accessories in the future.

\* \* \*

**HAVE A SUGGESTION?** Want to give a club officer some feedback? Have a great idea for a monthly presentation that you'd like to share? Send

your comments to [Feedback@OPCAAW.com](mailto:Feedback@OPCAAW.com).



**Trent Bosch**

**July 26th, 2014:**

**Trent Bosch replaces Richard Raffan**

as featured instructor in Olympia's creativity in woodturning Symposium.

Trent is a very popular woodturner and wood sculptor, known to galleries world-wide. Richard Raffan, the well-known woodturner, author, and instructor will not be able to attend this symposium because of his recent health problems. For more information, go to the Olympia Club's site 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>.

### In Memory: Robert "Bob" Scalf

Bob Scalf, a well-liked member of OPCAAW for a long time, passed away suddenly on April 15. Woodturning and our meetings were important in Bob's life, and he especially enjoyed the trade-talk, banter, and camaraderie of our meetings. He will be missed. His obituary is at <http://newspapersmagazine.com/6225/Port%20Townsend%20Leader%20online%20newspapers/>.

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A BAT, A CLUB, AND A MAUL?

### BAT

Merriam-Webster: a stout solid stick.

OPCAAW: A bludgeon roughly 32" long.



### CLUB

Merriam-Webster: a heavy usually tapering staff especially of wood wielded as a weapon

OPCAAW: A bludgeon between about 15" and 32"



### MAUL

Merriam-Webster: a heavy often wooden-headed hammer used especially for driving wedges

OPCAAW: A bludgeon up to about 15" long.



The Challenge of this month's contest is to turn a bludgeon, in one, two, or all of the categories listed above. A prize of dubious quality, unknown quantity, and questionable monetary value will be awarded in each category.

There are only a few hard and fast rules:

1. Each item should be all or partly turned on a lathe.
2. You get to choose your own design and starting material (unless your spouse finds out about it).
3. Each item must fit precisely within the approximate dimensions of one of the categories of bat, club, or maul.
4. This contest will be judged by someone whose decision will be final.

## CHAUFFEUR NEEDED TO DRIVE FAIR EVENT

A proposal has been made to have the club man a booth at the Kitsap County Fair, August 20 - 24. A question to the membership endorsed the proposal, but we have come up with a manning problem. All of our regular volunteers are already committed or overloaded. We need help. We need a person, or a two person team to take charge of the project, starting as soon as possible with the planning process. From the show of hands, there will be plenty of volunteers to help with the set-up and manning once it is organized. More to follow.

**THE FINISH EXPLAINED** is the topic for June's meeting. Bring all of your questions on the mysteries of finishing, and we will try to provide you with some of the answers, as well as some good practical advice and guidelines.

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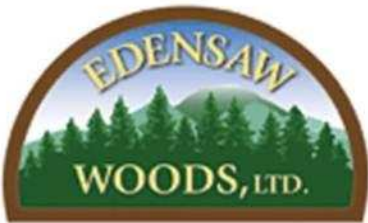
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## MENTORING PROGRAM

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

## 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
Secretary	Peter Gerstel	(360)697-6150	Secretary@opcaaw.com
Treasurer	Ellen Winnie	(360)779-5979	Treasurer@opcaaw.com
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 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
Sand Paper and Glue Sales	Bob Flynn	(757)839-5270