

CHATTERMARKS



The eNewsletter for Woodturners of Western Puget Sound.

The Chief is Back!

With Fuzzy Edges

Our favorite Police Chief, Glenn Schaffer, from Chehalis, WA, is back again with another fine presentation on ***natural edged vase and vessels***. Made from branch wood, turned wet; they are fairly simple spindle and end grain hollowing projects that can be beautiful when completed.

Sometimes simple is best and most impressive, as shown in the photo below. Interesting and beautiful to admire, maybe not so fun to drink from with its ***"Fuzzy Edges"***.

As some may remember, Glenn was here last year talking about texturing your creations to add another dimension to your art work. More of his beautiful work can be seen on his web site at www.Glennschaffer.com

A teacher as well as a turner, Glenn will most probably be planting seeds of how each of us can be teachers, too—and what would be required to share our experience and knowledge in the most



Glenn Schaffer hanging out in his shop in Chehalis, WA

clear manner.

Glenn has several videos on his web site showing techniques and processes that can be enlightening and informative. On his "The Process" page, he has a slide series showing the steps to turn a pickup bed full of madrone into functional bowls.

Join us for a enjoyable evening of Show and Tell, a lively wood auction and Glenn's presentation that is sure to stimulate your creative juices.



Next Meeting

6:30 PM

February

25

Kitsap
Adventist
Church

5880 NW

Taylor Rd
Bremerton,
WA



Special Speaker
and
Demonstration

~

Glenn Shaffer
on
Natural edged
Vases and
vessels



Show and Tell,
Wood Auction,
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fore the
meeting

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Revisiting the Basics

By Russell Neyman.

Exchanging a view of Blake Island for an equally historic location along the original Colby-to-Sidney Homesteading Trail, I moved my woodworking shop into a brighter, warmer place in December. For nearly a decade, I occupied a converted carriage house – yes, it once held horses – and got tired of frozen fingers during winter.

I loved the old place along Yukon Harbor Road. It certainly had its charm. There were as many pedestrians passing by as cars, and in the summer months it was a social gathering place, too. Friends and strangers alike simply popped in to see what was happening and to kibitz on whatever project was underway.

People I barely knew would walk in to hire me to build something or simply to bring me pieces of a tree they just felled. I often put a table outside the door showing my work, and I loved showing the bowls and boxes to people. The synergy of that shop was wonderful. I'm going to miss it.

The new place is smaller and I feel like I'm living aboard a boat; if I don't put things away right away, the benchtops clutter up immediately. Space is very precious, to say the least.

But the tradeoff is that it's warm inside, and I can actually get finishes to dry. I've taken this opportunity to re-think my shop organization, downsize, and create better storage systems. I have insulated walls, ample power outlets, and tons of overhead lumber racks.

>>>>>>>>>

Most notably, I built myself a much-improved woodturning tool rack. Through the 13 years that I've been a serious wood turner, I bet I've had five different systems, and not one of them worked well. I tried the hole-in-the-shelf system, the rows of PVC pipes, and even a magnetic strip. None of them worked satisfactorily.

The holes were either too large or too small, the tools wobbled or fell through to the floor, or because I was forced to store things point down, I couldn't see which one was which. My widely varied collection of gouges, skewers, scrapers and detailers – and the myriad of handle shapes that come with them – don't lend themselves to a one-size-fits all system. The small spindle gouge couldn't be placed near the monster gouge because they required different holes. The grievances kept piling up.

One of the biggest annoyances inherent to previous rack efforts is the tendency of the

shelves to collect wood chips. While you can give it a cursory pass with a vacuum or blow things out with an air hose, there was always that ledge in the back that collected debris.

So this week I set out to design and build a better rack, and in the accompanying photo essay you'll see what I came up with and how I made it. It's only five pieces of wood and some scrap conduit, and it took me less than two hours to build. It consists to two scalloped edges that cradle the tools top and bottom. The key element to the design is a lower shelf that is angled at 45 degrees, forcing the heel of the tool forward and into the pair of half-round cradles, top and bottom. That angled shelf also allows wood chips to drop to the floor. **(See pg 3 for photos)**

For the first time ever, all of my tools are upright and visible, easy to reach, and aren't drowning in shavings. It's not that it's shiny and new or that it's custom-made to fit my stuff; It REALLY WORKS!

>>>>>>>>>

Another advantage of the new shop is that it's dry. The Carriage House, built in 1920, was very damp and, in fact, the well-head for the town of Colby was still hidden under a door in the floor. The moisture and freezing temperatures made applying polyurethane or lacquer nearly impossible during the winter months. The lacquer fogged up and the poly simply didn't cure. I can't tell you the number of times customers were kept waiting while I waited for the weather to turn so I could apply a finish.

This place is heated – *what a luxury!*— giving me the opportunity to revisit a finish that didn't work well in the old one: poly. That stuff just never seemed be happy with the conditions under which I used it, but now I'll be able to create lustrous, simple finishes that have eluded me on occasion. Experimenting with new finishes and finishing techniques is very high on my priority list.

>>>>>>>>>

One downside to the move is that I'm now off the beaten path and somewhat hard to find. The informal "storefront" that I had before – a table under an awing outside my door -- is gone and now I'll probably need to work out a deal with a gift store or craft show to tout my bowls and urns. The positives outweigh the negatives, however, and I'm happy as a clam with the new situation.

>>>>>>>>>

A few of you have come to visit but not as many as I'd like. Keep an eye out for an Open Shop announcement in the coming months. We'll spin a bowl and, perhaps, spin a yarn together.



A BETTER TOOL RACK*(photo to the right)*

This design is very simple to build and holds a ton of assorted tools. The key to it is a bottom "shelf" mounted at 45 degrees (not visible here) that pushes the heel of the tool forward. Additional images with notes on the construction sequence follow below.



(Left) Using a six-inch wide piece of hardwood (this is oak), drill a series of 2" holes down the centerline. Here a forstner bit was used, but a hole saw or spade bit would suffice. These will eventually cradle your large tools, but the tools don't have to actually fit through the holes. Add a secondary set of smaller holes (two sizes) that will eventually hold your smaller tools.



Split the holed piece down the middle, creating two matching scalloped tool cradles. Then, cut two ends (6"x12") and a 36" plain board that will eventually be the angled shelf. Note that in this photo it hasn't been cut to length yet. In order to make the point of the scallop stronger, an additional 1/4" may be cut off so the half hole is 175° instead of 180°.



Take some 1/2 inch and 3/4 inch conduit (or whatever sizes best fit your particular collection of small tools) and press fit them into the secondary row of drilled holes with a bench vise or clamp. Hopefully, you planned this step well enough that they fit tightly and don't need to be glued to stay put.



←

Assemble the rack using two-inch screws from the ends. In this view, the angled lower shelf – the feature that makes all of this work – can be seen. It needs to be placed below the pair of scalloped guides. If the conduit guides are long enough they will keep the small tools upright and not tipping over.

Note **red arrow** and the angled board.

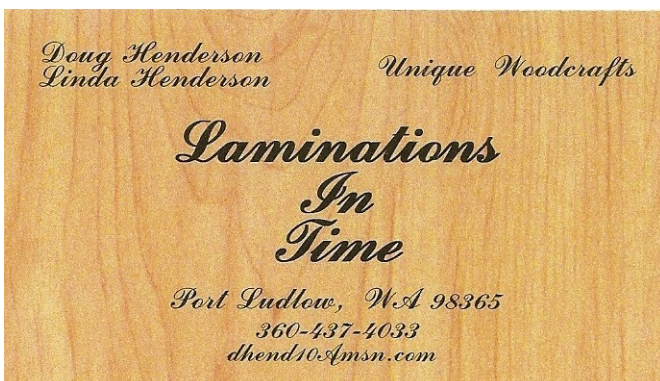
Tools lean against top scallop. Easy to see,

After a little sanding and two coats of lacquer, the rack is mounted on the wall and ready to be loaded. The beauty of it is that virtually any size large tool fits into the cradles and they neatly get pushed into place by the angled shelf hidden in the lower back. An added bonus is that not many wood chips get lodged in the nooks and crannies because of the angle.



Angled board and gravity push the handle bottom against the lower scalloped board.

Additional information—In the design of the tool rack shown, the top of the lower scalloped board is level with the top of the 45 degree angled board at the back. The tubing used was EMT or metal conduit, not PVC. Different sized tubes were used (1/2" and 3/4") depending upon the turner's collection of small tools. The rectangle pieces on the sides are 6"x12". Russell determined the distance between the two scalloped pieces that he needed by laying out all his large gouges and finding an optimal length. The "lean back" of the tools can be adjusted by moving the lower scalloped piece farther away from the wall. Although the top photo appears cluttered, Russ says that it's not; and he loves his new tool rack! ❤️



206-714-2324 JLouisKing@Gmail.com

Here's an interesting picture.... What do you see about it? Other than Marge has to duck every time she passes through the door, what stands out about this picture? Send your observations to me at editor@OPCAAW.com.

We also need a caption. What would

Marge or Homer be saying here?

Got any more interesting cartoons, say-



ings, bits of information? Send them to me for inclusion in future newsletters. –JTC

Dues - be due

Please remember that membership runs from January through December and Dues for 2015 are due now.

The success of our club can only be maintained if we have an adequate source of revenue. A big part of that comes from dues paid by our members. At only **\$30** per year, this is a huge bargain when you consider the educational benefit gained from not only our monthly presenters, but also access to our talented and sharing team of mentors.

So, if you have not written that check yet, do so when you check in at the meeting. –BOD

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Sawdust session!

**Sunday,
March 1,
2015**

Bring a project.

Bring your tools.

Bring yourself.

Learn.

Share.

Enjoy.

**9:30 AM—
~3:00 PM**

Bring your lunch.

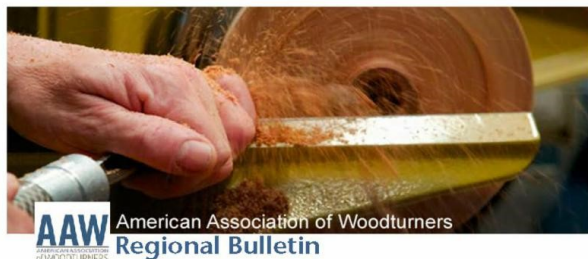
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Final reminder

regon Woodturning Symposium will be held **March 6-8, 2015** in Albany, OR. Advanced registration is only \$225 for the full weekend of demos and includes Penturners Gathering, vendor show-

case, banquet and live auction. Go to www.oregonwoodturningsymposium.com to register online or read more detail information about the symposium.

There will be over 40 live demonstrations for to attend. You will have the opportunity to see *Mike Mahoney, Jimmy Clewes, Trent Bosch, Kirk De Heer* and several other nationally and regionally recognized woodturners that will cover a wide range of turning topics.

You are welcome to call the chapter president, **Terry Gerros**, **503-580-5013** Or write him at gerrost@yahoo.com

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one of the
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needs to be
handled
differently.

Glenn Schaffer's Demonstration

There's a minor back story to this month's featured program. The speaker, Glenn Schaffer, and what he will show us are discussed at length on the front page of this month's CHATTERMARKS. Originally, the topic was listed as, "How to Do a Demonstration." Privately, several Board Members referred to this as the Demo-Demo.

Glen certainly has the skill set to delve into this sort of subject matter. As the Chehalis Chief of Police, he speaks publicly all the time and clarity of thought is his forte. If you attended his presentation to OPCAOW last summer, you'd know that he gives a wonderful show, deftly moving from basic turning skills to advanced and back again with ease.

We didn't feel that that the "Demo-Demo" material had widespread appeal to a large group of wood turners who would rather SEE a demonstration than BE one. That being said, Glenn tells us that he'd like to do that program on a smaller scale, focusing on those advanced mentors who host a great many open shops events and, potentially, are likely to make a featured presentation themselves.

Anyone interested should contact the VP of Training: TRAINING@OPCAOW.com.

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Care, concentration, and caution are needed any time a piece is not symmetrical.



Not the same piece as the one to the left, but similar in concept.

January's Show and Tell

PHOTOS NEEDED— For those who have perused the pages of our website, you probably have noticed that our gallery stopped posting photos in 2012. Not because we wanted to, we just didn't have a designated photographer to take the pictures. The gallery is always a place to go when you are having trouble getting inspired with where to take that chunk of wood spinning in front of you.

So, a call is being made to all members to submit photos of some of their work as a digital show and tell for the web site. These can be new items or ones you turned a while back.

A few tips. The photos on this page were taken at the last meeting, with available lighting and background. Your photo will show best if you have background that enhances the piece—a dark solid colored sheet or blanket, and lighting that shows off the piece. Be careful that the flash of your camera doesn't hide its features.

Send your photos to editor@opcaaw.com and the web master will consider them for inclusion in the gallery.



A study in dedication and inspired design.



Jimmie Allen's favorite story piece. Get him to tell you the history on this one.

Sharing our works in "Show and Tell" is a way to inspire someone else's imagination and gives us an opportunity to discuss problem areas with other turners so that we can always be improving our work.

The Mentoring Program

The OPCAOW Mentors are an select group of artisans and professionals who we have designated to promote, encourage, and guide novice and intermediate wood turners 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.

The current mentors are:

Dan Aclerman (Brinnon) 360-796-4155

Tones Briggs (Pt Orchard) 360-271-6446

Bob Hickernell (Bremerton) 360-497-5501

George Kromka (Bremerton) 360-373-1028

Jim Leary (Kingston) 360-297-5872

Jim McFarland (Shelton) 903-352-9807

Brad Stave (Gig Harbor) 253-514-8562

bstave@comcast.net

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Tex Lewis, Cameraman

360-698-3893

Stan Stumbo, Audio Technician

206-842-1458

Jim McFarland, Librarian

903-352-9807

Barbara Davis, Glue & Sandpaper Sales

C: 360-731-2725

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

**-- Dick Raffin,
Master
Woodturner**

