



CHATTERMARKS

The eNewsletter for Woodturners of Western Puget Sound-November 2015

Well, here it is! Finally. Some of you have waited a long time for the tool swap to become a reality. Your next step? Get out to you shop and go through ALL of your tools. Not just your gouges, but other things. Got too many tape measures? Throw a couple in your box. Screw drivers? Same thing.

Are you the sort of shop owner that can't have *enough* screw drivers? Now's your chance to stock up.

The invitation to the tool swap as seller or buyer will go out to the community. So expect to see new faces in the crowd.

If you are a seller, be sure to price all of your offerings. Masking tape with a price on it works just fine. Also, don't forget that you'll have to make change for everyone, because you know that no one will have anything other

than a \$20. Make it easy on yourself. If you price things under a dollar, you'll have to have rolls of quarters to make change.

Also, to be safe, bring a roll of tape and maybe something to cover the end of the gouge after you sell it. We don't want to see any gouge duels in the middle of the room. You know how boys and their toys can be.

As this will be open to all, we should see all manner of:

- Machinery
- Power Tools,
- Hand Tools,
- Antiques and
- Kitchen Appliances.

Does that give you any ideas?

Tool SWAP MEET



Presented by OPCA AW

Wednesday, November 18th
5 pm - 9 pm
Kitsap Adventist School Gym
5088 North Taylor Road, Bremerton
Free Admission -- OPCA AW.com

Don't forget. This is November and the meeting will be on the **third** Wednesday of the month so as to not interfere with your consumption of tryptophan at your annual turkey dinner.

If tools are not your thing right now, come meet **Steve Bartocci**, the Board Hoarder from the other side of the pond. Steve specializes in all sorts of exotic woods for turners, carvers and luthiers; but also carries some of your basic and standard woods. He will be talking about his inventory and perhaps what you could do with some of what he will bring to the show.

NOVEMBER 18– 5pm to 9pm

Regular meeting is
Wednesday,
November 18

Special Tool
Swap 5pm-9pm

Kitsap
Adventist
School
Gymnasium
5880 NW
Taylor Road
Bremerton.

Other
activities
include

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

See our
website at

OPCA AW.COM

Turning on the Emerald Isle

By Jim Conway

When my wife and I were planning a trip to Ireland, I wondered if they had wood turners on the island (yeah, I'm naïve). And, are their creations much different than what we produce in the Pacific NW? We have our own resident Kiwi, John Elliott; and he basically turns the same as the rest of us – that is if you know which one of the unsigned pieces is actually his. (Is that because he's been here so long that he's adapted... or is turning the same down under?)

Through the magic of the internet, I looked up the Dublin turning club and their web site dublinwoodturners.com. At first glance, it looks a whole lot like our web site. Upcoming events, meetings, newsletters, and news around the area. One thing that they offer is a monthly contest and to avoid having the same winners from the same small group of top turners, they have three divisions – Advanced, Intermediate and Beginner. Their categories included gavel, salad bowl, goblet and 'something' from a piece of wood 80x80x300 mm (about 3x3x12 inches). All in all, the photos looked a lot like what I see in our Show and Tell each month. As for their 'beginner' division, looking at some of the photos, I wonder about their definition of beginner....?

Well I'd still like to meet some of the Irish turners. So I

wrote to the club and soon Joe O'Neill wrote back. He even called from Dublin! "Joe, this is not a local number!"

We finally meet up with Joe in Dublin and piled into his typical Irish car, a Nissan. (I drive a ¾ ton pickup, which is twice the size of his car.) He takes us on a meandering tour through the streets of Dublin, pointing out dif-

ferent neighborhoods and their history, to include where he grew up. We pick up his wife, Mollie, and take off for lunch at their favorite eatery.

Joe is the perfect host. Possibly it comes from his annual travels to San Diego, Idaho and parts in between where he says they treat him royally. If that was his payback, we were definitely the beneficiaries. After lunch we drove to the nearby Wicklow mountains. They were charming and our destination - the Lakes of Glendalough - was impressive. What remains of Glendalough is mostly a

stone chapel and a tower, where it is said that the monks would take refuge if under an attack by entering the tower through a door high off the ground and then pull the ladder up after them. Surrounding the tower was a centuries-old graveyard with ancient and interesting headstones.

Driving there we pass through one of the last remaining ancient native Irish forests. Taking the back road we drive through abrupt changes in scenery from natural forest to heather and then to plantations of new timber. Along the way we pass by where Mel Gibson spent a quite a few days and a lot of Euros filming *Braveheart*. Speaking of back roads, I was eternally grateful that Joe was doing the driving. Driving on the left side on roads only as wide as a large dining room table is not for the faint of heart. Of course, on those back roads, sometimes you encounter traffic of a different sort, like the cows being driven back to the barn.

We meet up with them a few days later, and again, he puts on his tour guide hat and the four of us are off to **Powerscourt**. It's a huge estate to the south of Dublin, built in the 13th century and

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Driving the back roads in Ireland is not for the faint of heart.



Joe O'Neill saluting in front of Glendalough Tower.



Sharing the road.



Driving the back roads of Ireland.

nearly destroyed by a fire in 1974. Resurrected in 1996, it now is a beautiful tourist attraction with golf course, venue for weddings and a glorious garden with all sorts of trees and plants, native and not. At one point Joe and I were bent over looking at the root system of some ancient tree saying, "Would you look at that! I'll bet there's some great burl in there."



Powerscourt, Ireland

I asked Joe about which trees he prefers turning. He replies, "*Ash is my preferred wood to turn. We also have beech, which if spalted is most sought after. Yew is also a good favourite, [as well as] Sycamore, Oak, Laburnum, Cherry, Mountain ash (or Rowan tree as its often called). Elm was a great favourite but with the Dutch Elm Disease it almost wiped out that species. There are 26 native Irish trees. Holly Arbutus (strawberry tree). All the fruit trees like apple, pear, cherry, and plum.*" Wow. Lots of similarities, and yet many different varieties. I remember driving up the road to Powerscourt and all of the Beech trees that lined the drive.

The Dublin club, according to Joe, has, over the years, developed a close relationship with county maintenance departments and tree service companies such that whenever there is a downed tree that might be of interest to the turners, they get a call. That usually triggers a response team of several club members with chainsaws to help remove the tree – payment coming in the form of wood.

Speaking of lining roads with trees, everywhere we went in Dublin the streets had a canopy of very old Maple trees. In the NW we have street landscaping with maples which add such great color in the fall. But our trees are just a couple hundred years younger than those of Dublin. In the courtyard of Trinity College, just outside of the Library, where the Book of Kells is kept, are two very



Oregon Maple at Trinity College

ancient, very gnarly Oregon Maple trees. The guide had no information on WHY they chose to import Oregon Maples, but there they were. A turner's dream with their giant trunks, offering visions of beautifully turned objects.

Being without a car in Dublin (by choice) we soon learned to navigate the city of 1.5 million people by bus and light rail.

So the next Wednesday, we took the #14 bus out to the suburbs and to Joe's house and shop. I wanted to see what went on in his classes. Not a big place by any standard, it was amazing that he was able to stuff 5 students into an area of a single car garage - with lathes, supplies and tools.

When I first met Joe, we talked about what we each liked to turn, and I can remember saying that I wasn't much into turning pens. It just didn't interest me. So when I walked into his shop, he guides me over to a lathe and says, "We're going to have you turn a pen today." Sly fox he is. I had so much fun at it, I've decided to add pens to my turning repertoire.

Besides being a retired postal worker and turner, Joe is a teacher and has several turning classes a week. What a

mix of students Joe has. Both retired and working. From a past owner of a cabinet shop to a taxi driver to an architect and a PR man. There was Brendan, and Michael, and Paul and (don't call me Desmond) Des. All with varying experience in turning and all working on different projects. Joe was a butterfly and the glue to the room, floating from one to another, making sure things were going well, answering questions and offering advice. Then, about 11:30 a tap on my shoulder – "Coffee or tea?" It was their standard break time and we all sat around chatting over a cup of something warm.

One thing about

Continued on Page 4

Joe was a butterfly and the glue to the room, floating from one to another, making sure things were going well.

Calendar of events, shows, classes and other things

2015

November 18 — Monthly meeting **Tool & Wood Swap Meet** and 'the Board Hoarder. Note: this is the Wednesday before our regular meeting date.

December 16—Christmas Party Pot luck dinner and raffle items with "Red Tickets". Maybe some blue ones, too.

2016

January 27 Monthly meeting—A.J. Mearns, Coring

February 24 Monthly meeting—Finishing session



Organization is a key

Joe's shop is that his classes force organization. Like all of our shops, his has a layer of sawdust on piles and piles of blanks and half-turned items. Look around and you see cabinets stuffed with finishing materials, parts; and

shelves with plastic bins and drawers of small parts that someone will need at some time. And labels *everywhere* since he's not the only one looking for something. Makes me want to take a look at my shop again.

Joe and Mollie were very special and welcoming people. We feel so fortunate to have enjoyed being with them and sharing their town. As big as Dublin is, it doesn't suffer from the big city syndrome. Rather we found the people extremely friendly and helpful. Bus drivers especially. On one of our first bus rides, we had told the driver where we were going, paid and took a seat on the upper deck. At one point, he stops the bus and comes upstairs and says, "This is your stop." Now THAT is friendly.

Slainte!



Now that the party is over-

For those that attended the 25th anniversary celebration of the OPCAOW's existence, a great time was had by all. If you missed it, stick

around we'll do another one in 2040.....

There was lots of behind the scenes activities that no one notices in the middle of a party. Long before the celebration—like months—, the board of directors was discussing and planning. First in vague concepts and then, as time grew nearer, in great detail.

Invitations had to be sent to those we thought would enjoy or be interested, press releases sent to the media and other turning groups. Video equipment was tested for it's compatibility with the Skype connection that we had with Wally Dickerman.

Cakes were ordered and picked up. Decorations were made or bought. And behind all of this was **a driving force**.

I mention this because there is always someone who is doing the lion's share of the work and getting little or no recognition. That someone is our president, **Russell Neyman**. He had the vision of what he wanted to see happen for such a milestone moment in our club's history. Russell made personal phone calls to key people that he wanted to be there—they were there in the early years of the club. People like Dave Schweitzer and Bonnie Klein. He made calls to the AAW, and other clubs inviting them to our party. He made calls to me when another promotion idea would hit him.

For me, the "Above and Beyond" came when Russell drove to Portland to meet with Wally Dickerman personally, interview him, and set things up for our Skype link. I asked myself if I would have done the same in his position. Nope! Not gonna do it. Don't have the time.

So hats off, and Three Cheers for Russell. Without him it would have been so much less. —JTC

For me, the "Above and Beyond" came when Russell drove to Portland to meet with Wally Dickerman personally, interview him, and set things up for our Skype link.

YO! In the back of the room!

Lately some comments have been made about the acoustics of the gym where we hold our meetings. It seems that conversations at the BACK of the room are being heard more easily than the person standing at the front of the room with a microphone. For those that are hearing challenged—(stupid saying, but I love it)—the distraction of the back room conversation overrides the presentation being made.

So, as a common courtesy, if you need to speak to someone and cannot whisper, please step out into the hall to have your conversation. I'm sure all of us, including you will feel better about this. — JTC



PT Woodworkers Show

The call went out and many of you responded to man (or Person—PC correct) the booth that our club had in Port Townsend. It's an annual event put on by the "Sprinter Group", associated with the Port Townsend Woodworking School on Ft Worden campus. Primarily it is a showcase of woodworkers and their creations. Wood carvings, wall hanging, chairs, tables, coffee tables AND this year—turnings.

At other venues this past summer, we have had live turning which always brought a crowd of looky-loos. However, the American Legion Hall, where the show took place, couldn't allow for live turning. However, we did the best we could which was to show off what we can do.

As with the other shows our club has been in, there was a lot of interest in what we do. Quite a few people signed up for our newsletter, so we can expect to see many new faces at our meetings in the future.

Many thanks goes out to the people who volunteered to meet the attendees and preach the benefits of belonging to our



Dan Ackerman and a nice crowd at the PT Woodworkers Show.

group. As with other similar events this past year, the volunteers had a great time, to not only interact with the public, but to get to know another member of the club.



~Fun Times with YouTube~

Dan Marler, a member of the group and photographer, has made several initial "Silent Turning" videos and posted them on YouTube.

Open to critiques, Dan is modifying his approach and refining the results with each video he does. The first video used a head or hat cam which showed every tiny movement that he made with his head. One suggestion said that the head cam made her prone to motion sickness, so Dan went to a fixed camera.

Since there is no audio and no commentary, graphics have been added to answer questions to technique or material before they come up.

"Back in the day" Dan attended a photography school in Santa Barbara. His major was Industrial photography with a motion picture minor. In those motion picture classes, he learned to shoot, edit and assemble movies using celluloid film.

The concept with digital is the same, but the application is a steep learning curve.

So give a look at these videos and leave comments if you're so inclined.

- 1) [Rough to Round](#)
- 2) [Shaping](#)
- 3) [Hollowing](#)
- 4) [Inlay and Finishing](#)



Christmas gift hint— I WOOD hats \$20. At the meeting.



By Vern West

Halloween is over and the clocks have been set back. If you still go to work, those morning commutes will be in the dark. Use extra care as your visibility is reduced.

2015 Dues are due!

Have pity on the Membership VP and pay them at this month's meeting. Only \$30.

Anniversary Celebration Comments

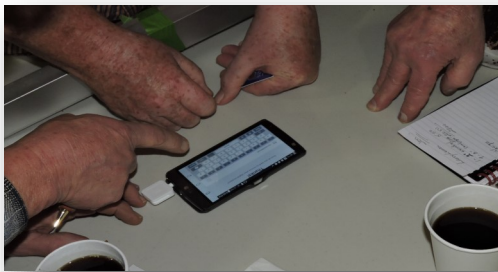
"My family and I had a wonderful time meeting all of you through the internet and I am disappointed I couldn't be there in person. I hope everyone gained a little bit of inspiration. Thanks to all of you." - Wally Dickerman

"I never thought that Skype could be a tool to learn from other [woodturners] from around the world... I loved the meeting and am glad others from the Seattle Woodturners Club came."- AJ Mearns, president, Seattle Woodturners

"The Skype presentation was a great bit of improvising that worked very well" - Larry Miller, past president, Olympic Woodturners

Party shots

Here are a few photos from our 25th anniversary celebration in October.



Trying to get the details right with the new 'Square' system to accept credit cards.



Dave Schweitzer
hollow forms



Paul Kaiser
Big Leaf Maple



Dan Ackerman (Rt) with Russell Neyman telling us how it was with the club in the early days.



Bonnie Klein (rt) and her top above the cake that was auctioned off for the video equipment fund. Russell Neyman (ctr rt) and Skype interview with Wally Dickerman.



Dan Ackerman

Minwax Antique Oil Finish

A member reports that the **Ace Hardware Store** on 3506 Kitsap Way in Bremerton is now carrying Minwax Antique Oil Finish for those of you that might be interested in that particular product.

From the finishing session last month, it was passed on that Minwax Antique Oil is similar to Watco, but gives a better finish and faster.

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Jim Conway,
Editor

The Mentoring Program

The OPCAOW 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.

OPCAOW 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

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bowl every
now and
then,
you aren't
trying hard
enough."**

**-- Dick Raffin,
Master
Woodturner**



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