



# CHATTERMARKS

The eNewsletter for Woodturners of Western Puget Sound \* Jan 2016

## Savin' Shavings

By Jim Conway

Last year I participated in the Maple and Madrone Burl purchase at Dave Schweitzer's place in the hinterlands of Shelton, WA. I bought a couple of big chunks of Madrone—not really knowing what I was doing so much—and hauled them back to my shop. A little Anchorseal to slow down the drying and control any cracking, and then a light trim around the edges with a chainsaw to get the piece reasonably balanced for my lathe.

Finally when it was time to start turning one of the rounds, I was barely able to see what I was doing. It wasn't my glasses; I was wearing them. It wasn't my face shield being fogged up; that was fine. But it was the tears in my eyes that prevented me from seeing what I was doing. Tears of pain as my gouge cut into the Madrone and sent beautiful ribbons of shavings falling onto the floor.

Not counting the fuel to drive to Shelton and back to Port Townsend, my blanks were costing me \$1.25 per pound and I was then turning them into a very large pile of

\$1.25 wood shavings on the floor. By the time the shavings dried, I figured they were worth probably \$10 a pound! My Gosh! I don't pay that for a pound of steak at Safeway. No wonder I was crying.

So what do you do with \$10 shavings? Make a \$2.00 fire starter? Or exotic mulch for your plants?

Fortunately, there is a solution. **Cor-ing**. It takes some specialized equipment, but with it, you can make two or even three or more bowls from that same blank that previously yielded only one bowl and a mountain of useless shavings.

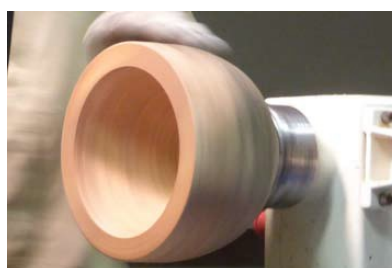
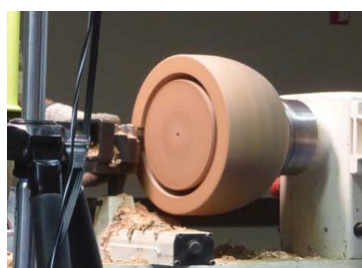
With us this month is **A.J. Mearns**, President of the Seattle Woodturners Club, who will be demonstrating both the McNaughton and the Woodcut coring systems. Besides his duties as leader of the Seattle club, A.J. seems to be the "go to" guy when it comes to Cor-ing. He gives several demonstrations around the Puget Sound area and

beyond.

Join us on the 27th of January to see what can be saved with a coring system.



By-product of bowl turning—Lots of shavings



Regular meeting is the last Wednesday of the month,

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

Kitsap Adventist School Gymnasium, 5880 NW Taylor Rd, Bremerton, WA

Other activities include

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

See our website at

[OPCAAW.COM](http://OPCAAW.COM)

# A Tool for Healing

By Russell Neyman

**A** statement made by Wally Dickerman during our interview at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event last October lingers with me, not only for the insight it offers about woodturning but also because of the context in which it was offered. He said: "...turning lets me get immersed in what I'm doing...all other thoughts – good or bad – just fall away...."

On the surface, that observation would seem to be casual and poetic, but when you consider what he went through during World War II during the time when he was first falling in love with woodturning, it's easy to draw inferences from what he said.

He was a young seaman aboard a destroyer, the USS CASSIN YOUNG, and could not have been closer to the terrors of war. The YOUNG was constantly at the forefront of the action during the final two years of the war, engaging in firefights with the Japanese Air Forces at the key battles of Saipan, Leyte Gulf, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. As the first line of defense at the latter two major engagements, the ship was struck – *twice!* – by Kamikaze suicide planes. Both times, Wally was wounded.

He never said so in so many words, but he must have suffered from battle shock (what we now call Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). This is a topic that is especially close to me; my father was at those same battles as a senior officer for the heavy cruiser, USS SALT LAKE CITY, as were several of my uncles. A grand-uncle, Robert Schwyhardt, was on board the cruiser VINCENNES when it was sunk at the battle of Savo Island, with the loss of 332 men. All of these Navy men told me that it is nearly impossible to go through these horrific scenes emotionally unscathed.

Wally, of course, was physically injured, but he also witnessed friends being killed and maimed. That was, after all, the intent of the

Kamikaze attacks: to terrorize the American sailors. It's a pretty sure bet that some of the "bad things" that he left behind when he came home and stood at his lathe were those memories.



**I HAVE ANOTHER** story about the healing powers of woodturning.

Several years ago a gentleman approached me in a tavern where I often sat, drinking a glass of scotch. It was my custom then, as it is now, to carry one of

my recent turnings with me as an "advertisement," so he knew that I was a woodturner with a degree of experience.

He explained his dilemma: He and his wife had lost a son two years earlier, and she was having difficulty overcoming the tragic loss. She cried constantly, was unable to function, and was severely depressed. But she had previously been interested in woodturning, so he asked me if I would help her find an avocation that might help move past her son's death. Of course, I agreed.

I'm no psychiatrist, and this set of circumstances obviously tested the limits of my social skills. The first half dozen times she came to my shop ended in angry cursing and tearful outbursts, usually without warning. All I could do was pause, offer a short bit of comfort, and say "Let's take that energy and turn it into a beautiful bowl. Let's turn the loss of your son into something positive."

And we did! Countless times. The angry outbursts became fewer and fewer, and her creative, loving side returned. That woman and I spent hundreds of hours at the lathe – and eventually we built a small workshop in her backyard – today she has become an accomplished woodturner.

I could give other firsthand examples of the therapeutic nature of our craft, too. I know of several individuals whose creative side was never allowed to blossom until they took a gouge and skew in

—Continued on Pg 3

## Note for Wounded Warrior fund raiser Bowls-

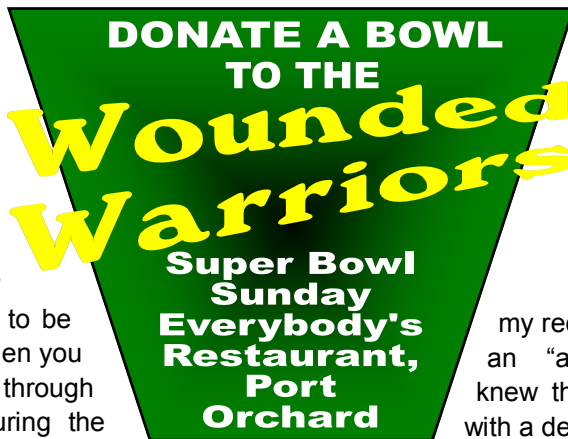
You may donate a bowl to this fund raiser to be auctioned off at Everybody's Bar and Grill in Port Orchard on Super Bowl Sunday.

Bring the bowl on Sunday Feb 7 by 2 PM or give your bowl to Russell Neyman beforehand.

Everybody's is at 4215 NE Mile High Rd, Port Orchard.

"....turning lets me get immersed in what I'm doing.... All other thoughts—good or bad— just fall away..." — Wally Dickerman

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hand. For whatever reason – a repressive parent, lack of opportunity, or just bad karma – their artistic juices were never allowed to flow. There are others, too, who have just lacked the self-confidence to be themselves, and woodturning was an avenue for expression. Others I know have undergone tremendous personal growth because of this wonderful world of turning.

I imagine there are many of us who go out to the shop when we're worried or discouraged and are able to find solace in taking a rough chunk of wood and being able to create something beautiful from it. I certainly do. Is there

*anything* more calming than creating long ribbons of fresh madrone with a sharp gouge? What other hobby allows you to complete a project in a single day, transforming a chunk of timber into a useful or beautiful round object in a matter of hours?

There are so many ways that we individuals can begin a personal healing, but I feel certain that the time spent focusing on a spinning bowl blank is wonderful therapy. Sort of the "Zen of the Spin."



# Elekshun Time!

## Officer News & Notes:

The election of Olympic Peninsula Woodturners club officers for 2016 will take place at our January meeting under the auspices of Past President Norm Hix. There will be a couple of new faces, but all positions are unopposed. The slate includes:

Russell Neyman, President  
Brad Stave, First Vice President  
 (Demonstrations and Training)  
Jim Conway, Second Vice President (Public Relations, Newsletter)  
Pam Kellington, Third Vice President  
 (Membership)  
Jon Geisbush, Treasurer  
Vern West, Secretary  
Larry Lemon, Sergeant-at-Arms



**We are deeply** indebted to two members of the Board of Directors who have served the club for the past several years; Pete Gerstel, our secretary; and Schuyler Beaver, the outgoing Membership VP. Both have decided to step aside so that others can take leadership roles in their place.

We know that both of you will continue to find ways to serve the organization, but what has been accomplished these past several years could not have been achieved without your contributions.

We thank you!

Their departure triggered a reshuffling of our officers, with former Sergeant-at-Arms Vern West moving into the secretary position, and two new members, Pam Kellington and Larry Lemon, joining the team.—RN



**WHEN YOU'RE STUCK** trying to find the answer to a technical question or, perhaps, just in need of some feedback, where do you turn? *Eh? Who ya gonna call?*

I can think of at least two excellent choices. One is our own website, OP-CAAW.com and the other is our Facebook Page, listed as Olympic Peninsula Chapter-American Association of Woodturners.

Our *Webmaster Extraordinaire*, Larry Matkins, has spent hundreds of hours converting our website into a treasure trove of woodturning resources. Beyond the links to various sources for supplies and information, he has also included tabs for past issues of our newsletter, galleries of members' work, and notes about various other clubs.

For those who would like a more interactive dialogue, the Facebook Page offers that. It's a great place to post a photo of your most recent work, ask for advice, or simply make a passing comment about something on your mind.—RN

It's the  
"Zen of  
the Spin"

....Larry, has spent hundreds of hours converting our website into a treasure trove of woodturning resources.



# Calendar of events, shows, classes and other things

2016

January 27—	Monthly meeting. A.J. Mearns—Coring,
February 24—	Monthly meeting. Finishing Workshop II. Because it was so popular the first time around.
February 28 —	Allen's Demo Session—Multi-station demonstration of techniques
March 30—	Monthly meeting. Jay Shepard—Design elements for woodturners
April 27—	Monthly meeting. How to take a chunk of wood to a bowl blank using a chainsaw and band saw.

## Bringing you the best

Think back on the past year. How many meetings did you attend? How many presentations can you remember? More importantly, how many different ideas and techniques did you pick up from the demonstrators that gave a talk?

I, for one, usually walk away with at least ONE very good idea that I can take home to my shop and incorporate into my turning. When I sit in the board meetings and hear the discussion of who is available, who we can get, and sometimes who we *can afford*; I realize that there is a lot of effort that goes into setting up these programs.

The club is an education tool. Our purpose is to bring the best and most useful information to you, the member, that the board can arrange and can afford. Currently, the Board is trying to increase our budget for 2016 for presenters.

Last year we had several special fund raising events that helped purchase our new video equipment. This year, we not only will need to fund more upgrades to our video system, we also need to increase the dollar amount available for demonstrators.

Our first line of funding comes from each member and the dues that are paid. We ask each of you to **remember to pay your dues this month**, if possible, so that we can know how much money we can depend on for operations for the year.

Secondly, if you have equipment that can be donated to the club to be refurbished and sold, raffled or auctioned, that has become a great fund raiser, as we have seen in 2015. — JTC

## Allen and Associates at it again!

Sawdust-type sessions have proven so effective and informative that Jimmy Allen is putting together a group of experienced turners on February 28, a Sunday, from 9AM to 3PM—or until everyone gets tired and goes home.

For the uninitiated, this gathering consists of multiple stations of lathes with the instructor showing a particular technique or idea that you can observe or get hands on experience.

Topics to be presented will be Box Making (the correct way), Tool Control, Using a skew without fear, and many more. Presenters are the usual suspects.

Come out for an hour or the day. You'll be glad that you did. Shyness does not serve well, so step right up, ask questions, take the tool in your hands and learn. — JTC



## Member to Member Sales

From time to time we all have that extra piece of equipment that we no longer use. Or we find ourselves NEEDING a new or better piece of equipment. Where can we match the seller and buyer?

Right here in Chattermarks.

On subsequent pages there are (and will be in future editions) tools and equipment for sale by one or more of our members.

If you have something that you would like to sell, take some photos, write down a description—in detail, and submit it to moi, your editor, at OPCA@Gmail.com.

I, for one, usually walk away with at least ONE very good idea that I can take home to my shop and incorporate into my turning. — Jim Conway

NOTE: The item for sale this month was sold at the last minute to the member's neighbor. Therefore, the listing was removed. Sorry. Check back next month.



What's in your shop?

Power saw, Vacuum, Planer, Joiner, Router, Sander, and More.

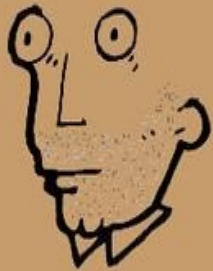
All producing loud noises and sawdust.

Protect your hearing. Protect your lungs.

Wear the appropriate safety gear.

Your family will be glad you did.

# Beard-to-Wisdom Ratio (for Woodturners)



Watches  
10 Youtube  
Videos;



Puts first  
Bowl on  
Show &



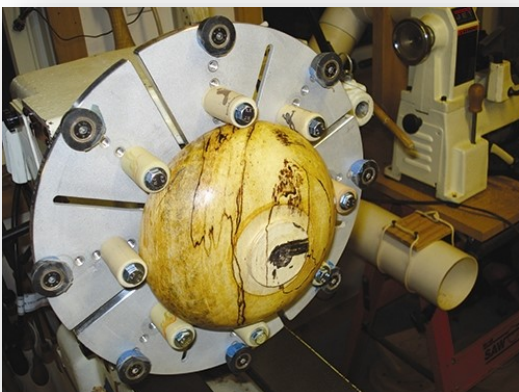
Sells a  
Bowl  
At a Craft



Achieves  
"Mentor" Sta-

## A Cole Jaw Fix

Got a funny shaped bowl or one with curved edges that don't allow you to grab it with the normal button from a Cole Jaw Chuck? If you don't want to order the extended bumpers and wait for them to arrive, here's a solution. Get eight synthetic corks from bottles of wine. Apothic and Bare Feet are two that use the synthetic corks. Drill a 1/4" hole through the middle and secure to your Cole Jaw with long 6 mm screws. Easy peasy.—JTC



**A PROPOSED BUDGET** was submitted by Treasurer Jon Geisbush and approved by the Board at our January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. We are hoping to continue to upgrade our "live broadcast" video and audio systems. We also hope to bring in new faces to our monthly demonstrations.

Roughly 40 percent of our operating budget comes from member dues, another 40 percent comes from the monthly wood auction, and the balance comes from various special events—raffles, machine auctions, and general donations. It's this last portion of the projected revenues, the special fund raising, that will make or break our ability to put on a first-rate show. We'll need to generate about \$2500 in special incomes and events for 2016.

We've been extremely fortunate the past two years to have received generous donations of equipment and tools that we have converted into much-needed cash. The list is pretty impressive (Jim McFarland, Tones Briggs, Daniel Cave, Jeff Brody, Ron U'ren, Dave Schweitzer, and many others) but we really need others to step up, too. If you have, or know of, a lathe or other piece of equipment that is withering away, please see if you can get it donated to the club.

Contact Russell Neyman  
([President@OPCAAW.com](mailto:President@OPCAAW.com))



**SPEAKING OF DONATIONS,** Jim McFarland was garage sailing and stumbled upon two items that were selling for bargain prices: An old delta bench-mounted lathe and a Grizzly sharpening station. He nabbed them both, presumably for a song, and donated them to the club. After a little spit-and-polish, both have found new homes among club members. It was a win-win proposition.

Thanks, Jim!



**OUR SPIFFY NEW** cameras should be fully operational by the January General Meeting, and we'd like to know what you think. The images are clearly sharper, and the advanced switching dashboard allows for split screen and other advanced features. Video lead Jeff Childs deserves a huge hat's off for making it all happen.



**ARE YOU A FINANCIAL WIZ?** A CPA, Attorney, or CFP? We continue to ponder the possibility of becoming a full-fledged non-profit organization. There are so many Pros and Cons, and we barely understand what we're looking at. We also wonder about what, if any, reports our club should file with the government? What hoops are needed to qualify for non-profit status? What reports and accounting will be needed if, in fact, we do become non-profit?

If any member can give us some advice or insight, we'd greatly appreciate it. Perhaps an appearance at our Board meeting to present possibilities and answer questions could help the Board in its



## A DAY WITH JIMMY CLEWES

**March 19, 2016**

The NWWWT in Anacortes is hosting a weekend gathering with Jimmy Clewes. Clewes is a Registered Professional Woodturner in Britain and is now living and teaching in the U.S.

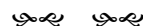
The all day Saturday class will be on March 19, 2016 at the Anacortes First Baptist Church, 2717 J Ave, Anacortes, WA. Jimmy will be emphasizing design, form, tools, technique and his approach to color and surface embellishment. His demos are fast paced and lively.....full of energy and *FUN!!!* Visit their website for additional information: <http://www.nwwwt.org/ClewesDemo.pdf>.

Early registration will be \$45 until January 31st. After that, the cost will be \$55. This price includes a deli lunch, drinks and snacks.

In addition to the day long demonstration, Clewes will teach two hands-on classes on Friday and Sunday. Attendance is limited to 8 per class. At the time the email was received, one slot on Saturday and two on Sunday were open. Cost for these classes are \$125 per person.

Friday's class will be turning a scorched ash bowl and Sunday's class will be "Turning an African-style Drum Box."

To register, go to the link above which will in turn direct you to other links where you can get more information or register. Or you can contact Donna Holmquist at [registration@NWWWT.com](mailto:registration@NWWWT.com) or 206-347-0911.



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

- Russell Neyman



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are welcome.

Jim Conway,  
Editor

# The Mentoring Program

**CONSIDER A MENTOR**—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 at

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:

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

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

**-- Dick Raffin,  
Master  
Woodturner**