



CHATTERMARKS

The eNewsletter for Woodturners of Western Puget Sound

Finishing Frenzy II

By Jim Conway

It was just last September that we experimented with a “sawdustless” session focusing on finishes. After all, it’s the finish that can make or break a piece that one has spent a whole lot of time on.

For those who missed the last finishing session, or are new to the club, this will be a multi-station presentation with multiple demonstrators presenting different types and styles of finishes. Pick your topic. Listen. Move on to the next one.

To begin, **Ralph Linberg** will be telling us how to pick the right finish for the type of turning that we have or its function.

George Kromka will talk about coloring with Aniline Dyes, and how to enhance an otherwise plain turning or put pizzazz into a good one.

If you want more information about color, **Brad Stave** will be talking at his station about texture and Milk Paint. Milk paint is an easy-to-use and versatile coloring that is non-toxic and environmentally friendly. Those are just the kind of buzz words that fit in with the Northwest. Just watch your expiration date.

Russell Neyman will be presenting, in his area of the room, the ins and outs of applying lacquer. Lacquer can be clear or colored and can have a sheen from ultra-matte to high gloss. It is a very hard and durable finish.

If you are making pens or other small items, you’ll want to hang out at **Larry Matkin**’s station where he will discuss the



application of CA glue as a finish.

Showing us the process of applying Polyurethane and/or Wipe-on Poly will be **John Elliott**. Whatever your current style of finishing is, now would be a good time to explore other finishes. You never know what lies in wait for you out in the world of finishes. Join us at this month’s meeting and learn all you can about finishes.

As an added attraction, **Steve Bartocci, aka The Board Hoarder**, will be on

hand to speak for a couple of minutes about the type of woods that he carries PLUS Steve will have a table where he will be selling some of his more interesting blanks.

All of this is in addition to our normal Show and Tell and wood auction and will promise to be a meeting not soon forgotten. So be there the last Wednesday of this month for fun and enlightenment. —JTC

Feb 2016

Regular meeting is the last Wednesday, of the month

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

Kitsap Adventist School Gymnasium
5880 NW Taylor Road
Bremerton.

Other activities include

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

See our website at

OPCAAW.COM

Useful, Out-of-the-Ordinary Supplies and Gadgets

By Russell Neyman —

We visit a fellow turner's shop, planning to share a few methods of using a skew or applying a better finish. Those moments of sharing are the cornerstone to the development of better artisans. There are what I often call "ah-ha moments," though, that result from these casual interactions. You leave learning about something delightfully unexpected — a method of storage, the unusual tool, or the odd shop supply — that add to your woodturning arsenal.

I'll cite some examples from my own shop:

Q-Tips. These are especially useful for applying cyanoacrylate (CA) finishes, but I also use them to dab a bit of glue in hard-to-reach places.

A Kitchen Knife. I use an old *steak knife* as a final parting tool, using my regular one to cut down the wood to the final quarter-inch, then neatly cutting the last part with the sharp, thin blade. This avoids that stub that most parting tools leave behind. There are also occasions when I throw a steak on the grill outside my shop (which is miles away from my house) and I need the knife to devour my meal.

Simple Green. Sometimes the pitch inherent in woodworking gums up my sawblade, and the friction-caused heat bakes it on to a crust that is hard to remove. Simple Green does the job.

Sweatshirts and Socks. Yes, the bulk of old clothes can be cut up for rags, but save the sleeves and legs from your workout clothes. You can slip your recently completed bowls into these ready-made pockets for safe transport to the club's Show & Tell event.

Dixie Cups. Obviously, these work well for mixing glue and small amounts of finish, but I also find them great for sorting small nuts, bolts, and nails.

Taking this collection of commonsense tips to the next level, I surveyed a number of other woodturners, and here are a few of their unusual shop items, with my comments in italics:

Flexible Pencil Erasers for sanding things larger than small spindles. It's simply sandpaper stretched tight around the eraser. The origi-

nal Magic Rub erasers work well as do the cheaper ones from the Dollar Store. I can control the paper far better than just holding it with my fingers for both the outside and inside of a form or bowl (if it's large enough), plates, platters, etc. With this I can get more pressure spread evenly over a larger area than I can ever get holding it in my fingers, even when folded several times. The eraser is flexible enough to conform to broad curves. I know you can buy flexible pads with sanding surface attached but they cost too much for my frugal side. I also use these on carvings and chip carvings, small flat work, metals, etc. As a bonus there is always something handy to erase pencil marks. BTW, I don't do this to keep my fingers from getting hot - if sanding when the lathe is turning, it is turning at a very slow speed. If fingers get hot, there is too much pressure and/or too much speed. — John Jordan, East Tennessee,

Textured Non-Slip Plastic Discs that [are] sold for gripping and opening jars in the kitchen (and also as router mat). Indispensable for getting things off a screw chuck. — Terry Vaughn, London, England and Vogel, Toronto, Canada.

Nylon Pot Spoon, for scooping shavings out of a hollow form. I usually keep the lathe running, get the right angle and it sprays out nicely. Use a cheap one, so if it catches, it breaks. —ibid. Robert Baccus of Texas also suggests a bamboo back-scratcher for this same purpose. *[Doing this while the lathe is running is an invitation for disaster. Turn smart! Be safe.—ed]*

An Old Towel laid on my lathe bed to put tools on so they don't roll off. Easy to move around as needed or wipe your hands, etc. — Don Orr, Schenectady, New York *(This also provides protection during on-lathe gluing and finishing.*

Cheap Magnetic Parts Dish from Harbor Freight placed on the lathe gearbox can hold Jacobs keys, index pins, etc. -- Mark Greenbaum, Brentwood, Tennessee

Old Mouse Pad to put between jam chuck (wood) and inside of bowls and platters to keep from scratching finished surfaces. --ibid (fyi-'ibid' means the same source as above)

Saran Wrap over the face shield when applying glue, or even stains and finish. — ibid

Roll-Type Window Shades. One I have mounted on the side of my cabinet makers bench and when I am doing a glue-up on the bench I un-roll it over the table to keep glue from dripping on the table. When done I give it a little yank and it rolls itself back up to its storage position. Another one is hung between my lathe cell and my miter saw. When running the lathe, it is down keeping debris off of my miter saw. If I cut something

Continued on page 3 —

A call for donations — Fellow turner, Ernie Kozun from Sequim is asking members to consider donating a unique piece of turned art that his club, Coast Savers, can put in their silent auction. Go to their website Coastsavers.org to see how you can donate for this fund raiser. Or contact Ernie at 360-683-2560.

Coast savers sponsors three beach clean-ups a year to help maintain pristine beaches.

Contributions are tax deductible.



Continued from page 2

long on the miter saw it goes up out of the way and by coincidence the board being cut (if not more than 1.5" thick) will slip under my lathe bed if it is longer than the miter saw cutoff point to the edge of the lathe bed. – James Combs, Mt Sterling, Kentucky

Plastic Hose Reels for my extension cords. – John Grace, Sawmill Creek Forums.

Talc Powder and a chalkboard eraser. Rub the talc into cast iron surfaces to lubricate as well as fill the pores to prevent corrosion. I use it on my bandsaw, lathe ways, etc. This recommendation came from the European tool company Robland in their manual for a cast iron sliding table I use on my cabinet saw. – *ibid*.

Large Pill Bottles cut into strips to use inside my chuck jaws to keep from marring my pieces. – Joe Bradshaw, Cary, North Carolina.

Bicycle Inner Tube cut to fit inside (*or stretched around the outside*) of jaws so not to scuff up finished surfaces. – Sid Matheny, McMinnville, Tennessee.

Cosmetic Sponges and Wedges (from Dollar Store or Rite-Aid) for applying Wipe-on Poly. They apply only a very sparing amount of poly which tends to reduce runs. – Bryce Rodgers, San Diego, California.

12-Gauge Shotgun Bore Mops and 50-caliber gun cleaning patches, I add handles to the mops, I can dip them in my oil finish and finish the inside of anything pretty quick. The cleaning patches are what I use to apply finish to the outside of my projects. – Marvin Hasenak, Texas and New Mexico.

Those Grabber Things where you squeeze one end and it closes fingers on the other end. Just the thing when something is just out of reach. Also, a back scratcher with the bent end will scoop out small parts from under the work bench. – Tom Wilson, Carterville, Illinois. *I admit to using these for many years. There's an "old person's stigma" associated with them, though, because they usually give you one free when you spend any time in a wheel chair.*

Plastic Letter Opener with the little blade that you can buy in stationery



stores. They are great for cutting sandpaper – just fold, crease and slit it with the letter opener. – Walter Mooney, Houston, Texas.

Craft Foam, especially the self-adhesive type. I use it to line jaws, make jam chucks, and to seal the vacuum chuck. – Thom Sturgill, Fort Pence, Florida.

Binder Clips make great small clamps for grouping small pieces of sandpaper, but this goes well beyond woodworking. I'll guarantee you'll find at least one useful tip from this video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nf...fufWiXtWvlz8Og> – John Grace.



~Other Club Stuff~

ONE SPINOFF – pun intended – from last month's demonstration of bowl coring systems is a movement toward "shared equipment" among club members.

Equipment like the coring jigs discussed by AJ Mearns are pricey, which translates to a somewhat expensive endeavor. At least two groups of turners with common lathes and who lived in close proximity to each other have partnered up to purchase one system.

It's a great idea! Let's do that more often.-RN



DAVE SCHWEITZER will be hosting his annual burl sale in early March (the actual date has yet to be determined) and signups are now being taken.

Highly prized madrone, maple, and other species of wood are hauled to his shop in Shelton by a tree specialist, Jay Parameter. Jay cuts the burls into large pieces to order, selling them in a freshly-harvested wet state for roughly \$1.25 a pound. For those of you who are uninitiated, this is a fantastic opportunity to get your hands on premium woodturning material that people in other parts of the country find nearly impossible to find – madrone only grows in the Pacific Northwest – BUT the material needs to be cut into bowl-sized blanks and rough turned/sealed/treated/boiled immediately.

We suggest you team up with other club members to purchase and process a large amount of it. If you need advice, contact a club mentor. We will also have a workshop dealing with "Preparing Bowl Blanks" soon.-RN



AN INFORMAL MEETING of twenty officers from various area woodturning clubs provided insight into how they operate. OPCAOW President **Russell Neyman** and VP **Brad Stave** hosted the event, referred to as *The Northwest Woodturners' Alliance*, in Gig Harbor, on January 30th.

Among other things, Neyman confirmed that the American Association of Woodturners has contacted him, confirming that the 2018 National Symposium will "almost certainly" be held in the Oregon-Washington area. The local AAW chapters are relied on heavily to provide staffing for the large-scale event which is ex-

"Use sandpaper like somebody else is paying for it."

—Anon.

Cut it with a letter opener

— Walter Mooney

Hold it with an eraser

— John Jordan

Calendar of events, shows, classes and other things

2016

- February 24—** Monthly meeting. Finishing Workshop II. Because it was so popular the first time around. **PLUS The Board Hoarder will be there!**
- February 28 —** Jimmy Allen's Demo Session—Multi-station demonstration of different 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.

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pected to attract thousands of woodturners from all across the nation.

The group also discussed subjects that are of particular interest to our guild, including:

- Advantages and disadvantages of becoming a non-profit corporation. Other legal issues unique to a club such as ours were discussed.
- Shared speaker and demonstrator costs.
- Methods of controlling costs and raising funds.
- Youth outreach programs.
- Better exchange of ideas and resources between woodturning clubs.-RN



Didja meet this guy?

Dear OPCAOW,

I just wanted to drop you a line and say thanks for the opportunity to visit The Olympic Peninsula Turners meeting. It's great to be able to meet such hospitable folks that have some common interests when you're working clear across the country and don't know anyone. I fly back to Norfolk next week, but there is a possibility that I will be back. You have a great deal of talent in your club, evidenced by the fantastic work on display for "Show & Tell". I was particularly impressed with the finial boxes done on the rose engine and the bowls with the stone inlay around the outside. I wish I was going to be here when that Ma-

Bret Glaze & Russell Ney-



drone shows up ! One thing for sure, Turning is alive and well on the Olympic Peninsula. And if any of you ever find yourself in the Norfolk / Va. Beach area, please look me up and maybe I can introduce you to the Tidewater Turners. Maybe I'll see you at the AAW Symposium in Atlanta. Thanks, Bret Glaze

Wally Dickerman

Those who attended the 25th anniversary celebration meeting last October will remember our guest speaker, **Wally Dickerman** as he shared his experiences of 70 years of woodturning. The vibrancy and enthusiasm of Wally belied his age of 94 years.

Unfortunately, Wally has taken ill and is currently in serious condition. We send him, his wife, Jane, and their family our prayers as he as he battles cancer.-JTC



A Coring Continued

While the presentation made by A.J. Mearns was fresh on our minds, Brad Stave, VP of Training, decided to host an open shop



featuring the One Way Coring system on Feb 11. In attendance were Jeff Brody, Jim Conway, John Elliott, Mary James, Larry Lemon, Tom Salisbury, Lynn Taylor, and Vern West in Brad's newly built shop.

Brad demonstrated the steps to be taken in preparing the blank for coring and the process of the actual coring. After successfully demonstrating a coring, two brave souls stepped forward to try their hand at it. No one died. And everyone walked away with a sense of ability and accomplishment. Thank you Brad.

This Open Shop was presented through the Mentoring system available to paid members. —JTC

Carbide vs. HSS Tools

By Ron Brown

I have done a 180 in my thinking when it comes to carbide tools. It turns out that carbide tools are playing a significant part in bringing folks into the craft of turning wood. Creating something on a wood lathe requires far less skill with a carbide tipped scraping tool than with HSS (High Speed Steel) tools. I was around when carbide tools were introduced by Craig Jackson of Easy Wood Tools and I had very strong reservations in the beginning.



There are 4 pillars of turning wood: 1) the lathe itself; 2) work-holding devices, e.g. chucks, etc.; 3) lathe tools; 4) sharpening systems for lathe tools.

Here is what I have discovered over the last 5+ years. Using just carbide tipped tools eliminates the need to own a grinder and a sharpening jig which can easily be 1/4th of the cost of getting into wood turning. Using carbide tools further eliminates the need to learn the skills to create a truly sharp cutting edge consistently in order to enjoy the craft of turning wood. The use of carbide tipped tools has allowed brand new turners to create acceptable turned items right out of the gate with very little learning required. In other words, it made turning easy. That has been a tremendous benefit to the craft of turning wood in general, which is why I encourage new turners to begin with carbide tipped tools. We can take a brand new turner, young or old, give them a carbide pen-turning set and watch them create beautiful pens immediately. That goes a long way toward developing an sparking interest in turning wood later on.

Carbide tipped tools scrape wood away rather than cut wood away. Although that puts the wood under tremendous stress and requires extra sanding to achieve a smooth finish, it works well enough for many types of projects. I would rather see someone become excited about turning because it isn't that hard to do rather than turn them off to our craft because they perceive it to be difficult; and they become frustrated and quit.

In most cases, high speed steel tools are ultimately the better choice, because it is better to cut wood than scrape wood. The vast majority of turners who stick with woodturning as a craft will eventually figure that out and add HSS tools and the appropriate sharpening systems to their repertoire as their skills increase. But meanwhile, the carbide tipped route is much easier for most people just starting out.

I use carbide tipped tools myself, but only where I would have used a scraper anyway. That would be for hollowing boxes, hollow forms such as small vases and Christmas ornament globes,

globes, etc. Contrary to popular belief, a skilled turner can use a carbide tipped tool to shear scrape effectively to achieve a smooth finish. —Ron Brown is a wood turner, teacher and retailer. He has a newsletter with information and items for sale. Click [here](#) to sign up. Or [here](#) for the website.



If you have heard the names of Richard Raffan, Michael Hosaluk, Jimmy Clewes, Linda Ferber, and Mike Mahoney, they are among a host of world class turners who will be at the **Utah Woodturners Symposium** in Provo UT this May. It is a three day affair (12th through 14th) with classes, demonstrations, vendors as well as many people who share your love for the craft of woodturning.

For those of you that have attended before and are thinking of "Super Wednesday," that function will not be held this year. It was an event hosted by **Craft Supply Company**, however, they have built a new facility called the Dale Nish School of Woodturning and no longer have room to host the Super Wednesday. In place of it, they are inviting all attendees to visit their new facility all day Wednesday or any time throughout the symposium. Craft Supply? Aren't they the guys that I order all those turning supplies from? And Provo is their home base? Could be worth considering a visit.

The symposium will be held on the campus of the Utah Valley University. Details on the what, when and where can be found on their website at utahwoodturning.com/. The who has not quite been finalized, but will be published on their website after March 1. —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.



Health Worker Awareness Month.
Avoid them at all costs. Remove rings, watches, necklaces, and loose clothing. Tie long hair back, check for unbuttoned sleeves and untucked shirt tails. Do not reach over a running lathe.

This will reduce the work load of the poor Health Care Worker and relieve your family of undue stress should you be involved in a turning accident. Turn Smart! Enjoy your work.

Using just carbide tipped tools eliminates the need to own a grinder and a sharpening jig which can easily be 1/4th of the cost of getting into wood turning.
— Ron Brown

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Topics to be presented will be Box Making , Tool Control, Using a skew without fear or screaming, 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

Contest for March

Sometimes the lead time for contests is so short that some members can't react in time. So, with that in mind this is your early warning for the March contest, which will be **Spheres, Eggs, or Bocci Balls**. Any size, any material, any details. The design is up to you.

Middle photo-twigs infused in epoxy



Library Feature

James McFarland, our librarian, reports this month that he has two new CDs that might be of interest to the membership. One is on **Hollowforms** and the other is **How to Begin Air Brushing**. Both are by Lyle Jamison, a well known name in the area of Woodturning demonstrations. The Air Brushing CD gives you exercises to begin using a double action air brush.

Check out these and other CDs, books and magazines in the club's library. They are a rich resource of information offered to our paid members.

A DAY WITH JIMMY CLEWES

March 19, 2016

The NWWWT in Anacortes is hosting a weekend gathering with Jimmy Clewes.

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

For Sale

Troy Kellington is selling his barely used and extremely clean **Ridgid 14-inch bandsaw**. He is offering it for \$300, including blades and wheeled stand. He stumbled onto a great deal on a bigger one, and no longer needs the Ridgid. Call (360) 340-6135.



Powermatic 3520-B

Offered by **Tones Briggs**, this big daddy workhorse of the turning world is all you would ever need for any project. Tones is asking \$3150 for this 4 year old, hardly used lathe. It has a 3 hp, 220v motor, and comes with standard equipment as shown. 360-271-6448

Decorative flourish



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

- Russell Neyman

website for additional information: nwwwt.org/ClewesDemo.pdf.

The cost of the class is \$55. This price includes a deli lunch, drinks and snacks.

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 or 206-347-0911



You said Yay. So here they are—your officers. From the left, Sgt –at-arms Larry Lemon (singular); VP of Membership Pamela Kellington; VP of Training Brad Stave; Secretary Vern West; President Russell Neyman; Treasurer Jon Giesbush; and VP of Public Relations Jim Conway.



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CHATTERMARKS
is produced by
and for

The Olympic
Peninsula Chapter of The American Association
of Woodturners -
OPCAAW

and is published
monthly both
electronically
and for printed
distribution. All
articles are copyrighted by OP-
CAAW unless otherwise
noted. Letters to
the Editor and
article submissions 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:

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
Brad Stave (Gig Harbor)	206-910-5459

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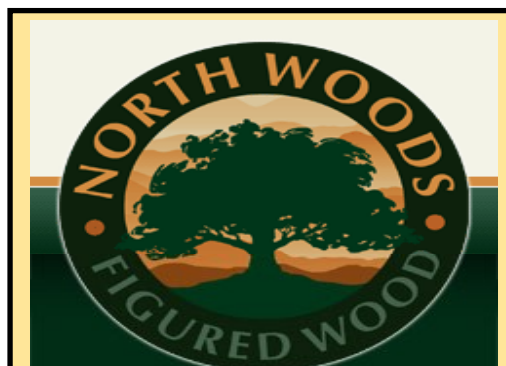
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**-- Dick Raffan,
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