



CHATTERMARKS

The eNewsletter for Woodturners of Western Puget Sound

Lighting up your life

This meeting's demonstration, given by **Brad Stave**, will be two-fold. The turning part of the presentation basically will be on hollow forms. How to start, how to design and form your project, and how to execute it. To go beyond just a hollow form and to give a different purpose to what you're doing, the demo will also include "How to Make a Lamp."

Wow! That may never have occurred to you before—to **make a working lamp**. Something that you have all over your house. Now you could have something that not only is functional but draws the eye to a creation that YOU have made.

The demonstration will go through the many steps of selecting your wood, determining the best orientation and use of the blank and then doing the actual turning. Once the outside of the lamp is turned, Brad will go step by step through the hollowing process, with the emphasis on forming the turning to function as a lamp base, which will have special requirements of its own.



We are so fortunate to have available to us a turner of the caliber of Brad Stave. Not only is he the VP of Training, but he is an experienced and talented artist. Always willing to step in at the last minute and present a top-notch program or be the coordinator of an open shop. His experience and vision will be a great asset to us during the coming year.

Brad is a life-long woodworker, he says since age 5. After college, he shared his love of wood by teaching, first in Washington, then Wyoming, where he taught Native American children—grades 3 to 8. Inhospitable winters drove him back to Washington where he designed furniture inspired by James Krenov. (Don't know James Krenov? Click [HERE](#).)

After a move to California, his wife sensed he needed to find a new avenue of wood-working and bought him

a lathe. He found his calling. He now says, "it is the pursuit of my heart."

Join us at our next meeting on May 25th to be enlightened by this club's treasure and resource.



MAY 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
5088 NW Taylor Road
Bremerton.

Other activities include

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

See our website at

OPCAAW.COM

Our Club Works

VISITORS OFTEN REMARK how smoothly our meetings run, with multiple internal systems magically coming to life just an hour before a hundred woodturners arrive to share their passion for the craft. Clearly, we are a smoothly running, well-oiled machine,

Even though I'm on the front lines of the organization, I'm still impressed with the dedication and sophistication that goes into a gathering. On those occasions when I'm running late, I know I can walk into the meeting hall at the last minute and everything will be in order: the room will be arranged, the audio and video systems hooked up and running, the various displays will be ready to go. It's quite satisfying.

There are, in fact, roughly two dozen individuals who play a part in our monthly cycle, each fulfilling a critical part in the show we put on. As our summer events near, it seems like a good time to take note of the inner-workings of our organization and the people who work in the front of the room and behind the scenes.

OFFICIALLY, WE ARE The Olympic Peninsula Chapter of The American Association of Woodturners — OPCAOW to many — which is, as the incredibly hard-to-remember name implies, a regional chapter of a nationwide organization. Other than the name, there is very little relationship between the national and local groups. Membership in one does not equate to any status in the other.

There is a bit of an ongoing debate over the name. Are we a club? A guild? Or merely a chapter of an organization with which we have almost no working relationship? And the truth is the majority of our

members *don't* live on the Olympic Peninsula, which is actually the mass of land north of the Hood Canal. The majority live in the *Kitsap* Peninsula.

A more logical and accurate name for our club is the Western Puget Sound Woodturners, but that's a discussion for another day. After 30 years as a club, changing the name would be an arduous task, one that I'm not willing to take on in the foreseeable future.

OUR CLUB ROSTER tops off at about 150 paid members annually, with another 100 people who are casual observers and occasional visitors. Annual memberships follow a January-through-December calendar year, which means we reset the membership lists on New Year's Day and start afresh.

Typically, 75-95 are in attendance every month. These craftspeople and artisans live in a geographical area that spans from Cape Flattery (the upper left-hand corner of the Continental United States) to Shelton. We have dedicated members who regularly drive 90 minutes to attend our monthly events.

It's worth noting that one of our biggest assets is the Kitsap Adventist School Gymnasium, where we hold most of our events. As part of our rental agreement, we also have use of the kitchen facility and a store room.

We have six elected and one *de facto* officers who serve on the Board of Directors, plus another 12 appointed staff positions.

As President, my role is to steer the ship and run the meetings. I also tackle the daunting task of solicit-

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Our meetings are "televised" on large screen monitors by Jeff Childs and his video crew.

ing donations for "special income."

Our general meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month except for November and December, when we move them forward to accommodate the holidays.

It's not an official job responsibility, but I choose to write a monthly column in our newsletter. I consider communication to be a cornerstone of our success, and I emphasize that at all of our meetings. *(without his column, I fear the newsletter would be somewhat light on content-JTC)*

The Vice President of Education and Training is the second-in-command and, as his title implies, he is tasked with soliciting speakers and organizing various demonstrations. Our current 1st VP, **Brad Stave**, works on a very tight budget and does a tremendous job of getting the most bang out of each dollar.

The Vice President of Public Relations, currently **Jim Conway** oversees our communications systems and edits our newsletter, CHATTERMARKS. This publication is distributed electronically every month just prior to our meeting date and is an essential component of our success. CHATTERMARKS has been nominated for an AAW citation and we fully expect it will be honored at the June National Symposium.

In addition to the press releases and the newsletter, our current VPPR works closely with the club's Webmaster, **Larry Matkins**, to provide a comprehensive

internet-based link to our followers.

Rather than using the website

(OPCAAW.com) as a mere rehash of the newsletter articles, Larry has developed a multi-tiered internet

resource for woodturners throughout the nation.

The Vice President of Membership, currently **Pam Kellington**, maintains our club roster and maintains a mailing list of members, sponsors, speakers, and "friends of the club" that may reach 350 names by year's end.

The Treasurer oversees our annual budget and serves as the financial watchdog, reeling us in when the Board of Directors wants to overspend. We are lucky to have **Jon Geisbush** in this capacity at the present time

Our club Secretary, who happens to be longtime board stalwart, **Vern West**, is a critical component to the long term success of the club. His notes and record-keeping will help officers understand the what and why of decisions made years from now. He also solicits advertisers, sponsors, and donors for various club events.

Our Sergeant-At-Arms hardly is relegated to standing at the door with arms crossed, scrutinizing the crowd. Our SAA is responsible for setting up the meeting hall and administering the Snack Stand. The man who currently hold this office, **Larry Lemon**, also does double-duty as our Auctioneer.

The final member of our Board is the immediate Past President, available to consult and provide background information to the current board.

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OUR ANNUAL BUDGET ranges from \$7,000 to \$10,000, depending on a revenue category we call “Special Incomes.” Our dues are a bargain at \$30 a year.

Roughly 35 percent of the budget comes from membership dues, 35 percent is derived from the wood auction, and the balance is generated by auctions and raffles. This last category usually involves machinery or tools donated to the club that we refurbish and sell for a profit.

There are a number of absolutely essential Staff positions filled by extremely capable individuals who work behind the scenes to enhance the meetings.

Jeff Childs runs our video crew and has worked tirelessly to upgrade our viewing technology so that we can enhanced live demonstrations. He is assisted by **Tex Lewis** and **Jeff Nagley**.

Augmenting the visual presentation is our integrated sound system, which consists of the typical hard-wired microphone and speakers plus an assortment of wireless headphones for those members who are hearing impaired. **Stan Stumbo** currently runs the sound crew.

As a membership service, we operate a modest club “store” at our sign-in table where paid members can purchase glue, sandpaper, sanding mandrels, hats, and other useful items. These are all sold at our club cost. **Barb Davis**, who also is our go-between with our landlord, runs this operation.

Our library, run by **Jim McFarland**, is one of the most extensive and best organized of any woodturning club in the Pacific Northwest.

An invaluable tool we provide is our Mentoring Program, which provides counsel and training to Woodturners, new and not so new, e.g. those who want to elevate their skills. **Tones Briggs** heads that effort.

He is also part of a team of highly knowledgeable individuals — **Jimmie Al-**

len, Ralph Lindberg, Dave Schweitzer and **George Kromka** are some of the others. Tones and Jimmie also moderate our monthly Show & Tell segment. For me, seeing the wonderful work our members do and hearing the creative anecdotes is the highlight of every month; the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, so to speak.

We also have a Social Chairman who coordinates two major events each year: our Summer Picnic and our December Woodturners’ Feast Party. **Cindy Allen** has served in this capacity for countless years.

The December party and raffle gives us the opportunity to reward people who have donated to the club throughout the year. Bringing items to show and tell and wood auction, hosting open shops and volunteering for time spent at various shows and displays receive “red tickets” at the meetings and qualify for raffle items at the Christmas Party.

• • •

THERE ARE OTHER essential cogs in the wheel too numerous to mention: the “regulars” who stay late to help clean up the meeting hall, the coordinators who staff our fair and festival displays, the open shop hosts, and the people who maintain and donate to our snack stand.

All of these personalities and components seem to magically blend together to create an incredible, comprehensive program that promotes the craft and elevates the skills of the individual woodturner. It’s a great feeling to know that every one understands their role in the scheme of things and they go about their assignments with a positive outlook. We’re a lucky bunch indeed.



Russell Neyman is a writer, woodworker, and a historian who lives in Port Orchard. He is president of the Olympic Peninsula Woodturners as well as chairman of The Yukon Harbor Historical Society.

“Donated machinery and tools that can be refurbished are an essential part of our budget”

Calendar of events, shows, classes and other things

2016

May 25—	May Meeting—Brad Stave— Hollow turning—Lamp making
June 29—	Eric Loftstrom— TBA
July 27—	Molly Winton—Small Hollow Vessels
August 15	Olalla Blue Grass Festival
August 24-28	Kitsap County Fair
Nov 5-6	Port Townsend Woodworkers Show

TURN AND DONATE

Last year when your club had a booth at the various events on the peninsula, we were there just to inform and demonstrate. We learned from the Port Townsend Woodworkers Show that the participants were allowed to sell their products.

So, the board is asking the membership to help us do a little fund-raising. It will help defray the cost of the booth and literature.

We would like to sell small items like **pens, bottle stoppers, ornaments, etc.** at the shows that would be in the \$15 to \$25 range. Please consider donating **one or more** items that can be easily sold by the club. Bigger items will be on display, but not necessarily for sale.

Give your donation to either Pam Kelington or Russell Neyman and it will be held until the shows. If you are new at turning, talk to one of the mentors or board members to help you get started on one of these projects.—JTC



Tops for the Fair

At last year's **Kitsap County Fair**, the club was able to hand out a ton of tops to the kids that came through our area and watched our demonstrations. It was a instant and huge success, and got Mom and Dad to stick around to see what we do.

The fair is coming up again on August 24-28. So the Board is sending out the call to help us fill George Kromka's bucket with tops. They don't have to be elaborate, just able to spin... and plentiful.

It's great practice for tool control. Play around with different designs and see what you can come up with.—JTC



FAIR VOLUNTEERS

Each year when the club has a presence at the various fairs and shows, we always need volunteers to staff the booth. This is not a demanding job, just one that requires a smile and a little talking. We are meeting potential new members and spreading the word about our club.

We are constantly connecting with people who either have never turned, or turned 'back when' and are interested in learning more about the hobby and our club.

So when the call goes out for volunteers, please give freely of your time. The rewards will be more than you expect.—JTC



Jimmie Allen Puts a Smile On

Well, maybe not on HIS face, but he did manage to put a few smiles on faces of those who brought their problem gouges to his sharpening time before the meeting. I saw Jamie Straw walking around with said smile showing everyone newly shaped and sharpened negative rake scraper.

"And he did it so FAST!"

If you'd like to have him do the same to your gouges, bring a couple to the next meeting. He may not do the sharpening EVERY meeting, but he'll try to.—JTC

Donate a small item to be sold at the fairs and shows this summer.

It's good Karma.

Woodturning 101 / BY JIM CONWAY

Sharp is not a state of mind

You've now spent many hours and untold energy searching, looking and fretting about which lathe to buy as your starter. You've collected some decent gouges to get started. You're standing in front of your lathe trying to make your final, smooth cut that will require very little sanding just like you heard in a demo. It's not going so well. You feel like you are carrying a sheet of plywood in a wind storm. Those beautiful cuts that you envisioned are just not happening.



You go to your mentor and ask for help.

He takes your gouge and inspects it, saying, "This is not a gouge. It is a screwdriver. A gouge must have a sharp edge on it."

"But it is sharp!" you cry in defense.

"Well, there is sharp and there is shaarrp."

Your mentor goes over to his grinder, attaches your gouge to an apparatus, makes a few measurements, and begins to lightly grind your gouge. Within moments, you now have a very sharp, correctly shaped bowl gouge.

"Wow! That was fast. And it looks perfect."

"Easy when you have the right tools." he says.

"So, tell me about your grinder. Is it a special kind?"

"**The grinder itself is not so special.**

This one happens to be a variable speed, 8 inch grinder. The RPMs are about 2000 to 3500, which gives you a lot of flexibility. I usually grind at the lower end of the speed. The important aspect is the diameter of the wheel. Being 8 inches, rather than 6 gives you less of a "hollow" grind with the larger

diameter wheel.

"What about the wheels? What's different about them? And why don't you have a guard on the wheel?", you ask.

He says, "**Those are CBN wheels.** Specially made for sharpening HSS tools. Not good for sharpening carbon steel though. They are perfectly balanced metal wheels with a layer of Cubic Boron Nitride bonded to the surface. It's a perfect match to the HSS tools because it doesn't heat up like other abrasives. It also doesn't wear down like your standard aluminum oxide wheels, so you don't have to constantly dress the wheel and the diameter remains constant for the life of the wheel.

"The reason that I don't have a guard over the CBN wheel is that there is no danger of it 'exploding' like the oxide wheels

might, which is why you have the guard in the first place."

"Wow! That sounds great. How much are these CBN wheels?", you ask.

"Oh, they run just under \$200 in most places. We actually have a member who sells these and that's what he charges."

"GAH! Two Hun-

dred Bucks per wheel?!?!" You're in shock. "And you've got TWO of them. Holy cow. Your grinder must have cost you between \$500 and \$600 with both wheels."

"Well, that's true, but you don't need to go the CBN wheels in the beginning. What you DO need, however, is a good sharpening system. With the sharpening system, you can use the regular wheels and do just fine. You'll be grinding your gouges down faster, but your initial cost won't be as much. You could ease into it later and buy just one wheel. Your grinder will work just fine with one CBN and one oxide wheel."

"OK. So I see you've got two grits. What grit should I get when I buy a CBN?"

"**Most vendors offer 80 and 180 grit** wheels, but it doesn't matter which one you

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Grinder with a CBN wheel (and missing the nut).

"There is sharp and there is shaarrp."

- What your mentor will tell you

All tools are hammers, except for chisels, as those are screw drivers

-Rude Osolnik

May 2016

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get, if you're only getting one. The 80 will be more aggressive but either one will do everything you want it to.

"The one thing you have to learn as a new turner is not to spend so much time on the grinder and **to not press down so hard when you're sharpening**. You need to sharpen often, but you don't have to make multiple passes on your gouge to accomplish a good grind. That's where a sharpening system along with a CBN wheel will help your tools last a long time."

"So tell me about the sharpening systems." you say.

"Well, the Wolverine system by Oneway is probably the most popular. But there are others like the Sharp Fast, the Tru-Grind, and the Sorby ProEdge system. All of them will accomplish the same thing, which is to give you a precision and repeatable grind. That's the key. If you can get the same grind each time and spend little time doing it, you have a good system.

"When I took my first turning class, the instructor was trying to help us save money by showing us how to free-hand sharpen our gouges. I could tell from the get-go that **free-hand was pretty hit and miss**. Then I saw a demo on sharpening systems. I knew that if I was going to have the "same" grind on a tool every time, I'd have to get one of these jigs. It has been a time and frustration saver for me.

"One thing I have noticed, though, is that there are several sharpening systems and jigs that use the same or similar clamping base used by Wolverine. Not saying it's the best, but it does give you some versatility.

"Another thing I'd like to mention is that to get that consistent grind, you might need some guides that a lot of turners use. They come in various angles, like this." He shows me several red swoopy angle thingys. "You place the point end in the cradle and then move the bar in and out until the two other points are resting on your wheel. Then you'll have *that* angle precisely dialed in to the system. I saw one the other day that had an adjustable angle on it so that you could select an infinite number of angles. I think it was on Ron Brown's web site."

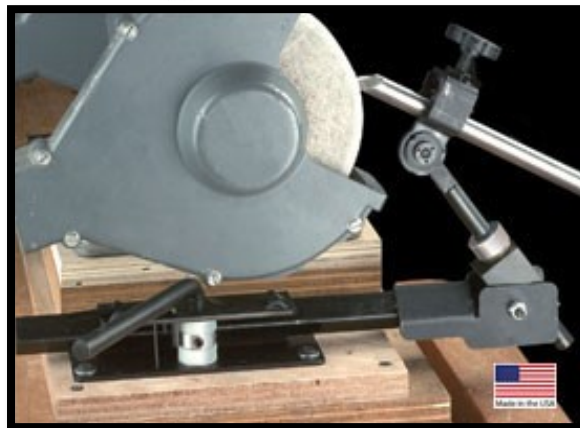
You stand there, deep in thought.

"So, are you OK with all of this? Got any questions?"

"Yeah," you say. "I'm just wondering where I'm going to come up with all the money for all of this."



Wolverine sharpening jig by Oneway



Sharp Fast sharpening jig

"You need to sharpen often, but you don't have to make multiple passes on your gouge to accomplish a good grind."

"That's easy. Don't be in a big hurry. Just figure out what you need the most and then buy one thing at a time. Before too long, you'll have all you need."

"Do any of the older turners sell some of their tools?"

"Only when they die, son. Only when they die."

Jim Conway is the VP of Public Relations and editor of the monthly newsletter. Originally from the deserts of West Texas, he has found his nirvana in the Northwest.



Ron Brown's adjustable angle gauge



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WOODTURNERS of OLYMPIA 2016 Symposium & Workshops

Michael Hosaluk and **Bob Espen** will be the featured demonstrators at this year's Woodturners of Olympia (WoO) Symposium in July. Dates are July 23-27 in Olympia. For more information, go [HERE](#) and register for the workshops.

We have posted a page on our web site giving a lot of the details of the symposium. To access that, click [HERE](#), and it will take you there

AAW Comes West

The Parent organization, of which we are a chapter, (American Association of Woodturners) has an annual meeting open to all. The problem has been that most of the meetings have been held back East.

No longer, Charlie. For 2018, the AAW will bring their show to Portland, OR. As the time draws nearer, we will be posting more updates and schedules for you.

So mark your calendars.—JTC



Membership Update

At the last board meeting, Pam Kelington, your VP of membership reported that there are now 116 paid members of the organization. Way to go, guys!

She also reported that 83 people were in attendance and 68 checked in with her at the back of the room. (Didn't think we were counting, didja?)

If you are one of the few that have not paid you annual dues, you could easily do that at the next meeting. It's only \$30 per year and doesn't get any cheaper if you wait. **So pay your dues now, please!**

The dues income goes to paying outside presenters that come to give you the quality demonstrations that you have become accustomed to.—JTC



Picnic Coordinator Needed

The club picnic is coming up this summer and we need someone to volunteer to coordinate the event. Not a huge deal. Just making sure that 'i's are dotted and

't's crossed so that everyone can have a great time.

If you would like to help the club out for this one event, please email Russell at president@OPCAAW.com and let him know.—JTC

Tool Swap as part of Picnic

Last year we tried having a tool swap as part of our monthly meeting. It was marginally successful due to being the middle of the week.

The Board feels that if a tool swap were held on a Saturday—the normal yard sale day—it would have a better chance of success.

So, if you have any tools that you'd like to sell, bring a table and set it up in an area designated off to the side of the picnic. You won't have to stand there the entire time, just if you have a customer.

You will have to do your own promotion, though, on Craig's List or wherever. FYI—If you choose to do this, photos do a much better job than a word description.—JTC

~For Sale~



Lathe for Sale

Oneway 1018 for sale. Manufactured in 1999. ½ hp motor. \$850. Call Lynn Taylor 360-385-3666.

ShopSmith Lathe and Band saw

Jim Conway has a ShopSmith, Band saw and a compliment of [tools and equipment](#) that will get the beginning turner set up in a jiffy. Talk to him about details. **360-531-0168**. \$490. Priced separately on eBay = \$700+



Playing cards are fun and make a lot of noise when you put them in the spokes of your bicycle.

Fingers, when stuck between the spokes, are not as much fun, and the noise level may be even greater.

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Many of these sponsors will honor your membership badge with a discount.

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welcome.

Jim Conway,
Editor

The Mentoring Program

CONSIDER A MENTOR—The OPCA AW 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.

OPCA AW 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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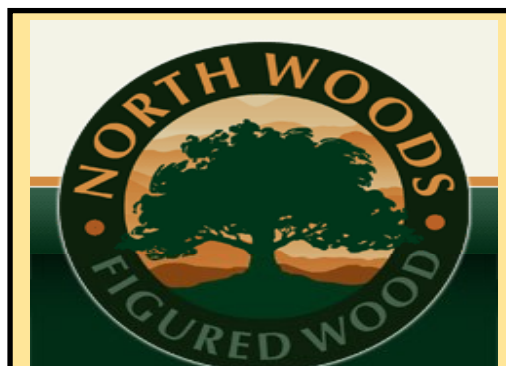
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**"If you don't
blow up a
bowl every
now and
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you aren't
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enough."**

**-- Dick Raffan,
Master
Woodturner**