



# CHATTERMARKS

The eNewsletter for Woodturners of Western Puget Sound-

# Molly Winton

## Making things small and hollow

By Jim Conway

Last year Molly Winton's demonstration at our club meeting showed us the art of Pyrography—or how to burn up your turning and actually make it look good. I was amazed at not only the art work she created by burning figures and symbols into her turnings, but how small and delicate her hollow forms were.



This month Molly will be back with us to give us tips on the process of turning small hollow forms.

Go to her site at [turningmaven.com](http://turningmaven.com) and check out her gallery of photos. Some really fine work here. Since she will be talking about “small hollow forms”, go to her “minis” page and marvel at her work.

The photo to the right is one of her minis, and is the size of a large egg. Thinking of the detail work involved in a piece like this makes my eyes hurt.

Molly says, “Miniature vessels are fun and easy to make using tools readily available on the market, or by using simple home-made hollowing tools.”

Molly is a local artist, raised in Edmonds; and spent 6 years working in pottery with her

sister. She says it was the pottery work that she learned the importance of aesthetics and design in three dimensional work. She took that knowledge and transferred it to wood turning when her husband gave her a small lathe. We all know where owning a



lathe leads—addiction.

Molly knew that she didn't have time to become a production turner, so she carved out a niche market for herself with her highly decorated hollow forms using cave art from France and Spain as her inspiration.

Come join us at our next meeting to learn from a great artist.

July 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**

**Woodturning 101 / BY JIM CONWAY**

# Making sure you can turn into your 90s

**A**lthough this series of articles has been geared more for the beginning turner, this month's topic can be food for thought for even the most experienced of us. It's also a combination of turning ideas and safety.

A couple of things in my life have had a profound influence on what I do today. Perhaps my experience can help some of you as you work around your shop.



**I tend to be very conscious of safety**, not just in my shop but everywhere I go. It goes to the years I spent working for an electric utility. Everything there was hazardous, so safety was the number one point stressed everywhere.

**Another thing that influences my thinking in the shop** has to do with the fact that I almost died in 2012. The acute diagnosis was pneumonia, but the underlying problem was a fungal infection in my lungs. I had been doing a lot of custom mowing that summer and like most guys that can't get it right that we're not 25 and bullet proof anymore, I wasn't wearing any sort of breathing protection.

As I lay on my couch in agony, I wondered if that last breath was really going to be my last one. Through the miracle of modern chemistry, I survived that week and went on to survive the endless invasive tests that went along with my infection.

Today, however, if I get in a situation where the air is filled with dust or VOCs (volatile organic compounds) my body will let me know about it quickly—as in endless coughing fits.

**I may be overly sensitive** to the idea of clean air in the shop, but I think some of our old time turners are ignoring the basic need for dust collection in the shop.

When I was just starting out and was observing one of the old-time turners in his shop, I ask him through the fog of sawdust if it bothered him. "Oh, I cough a little at night sometimes," he said.

**"You cough a little at night!?!?!?"** I felt like grabbing him by the lapels and screaming. But I didn't. Today, I might.

If you're just putting your shop together or have been turning for years and ignoring the haze of wood dust that has settled all over your shop, you might want to spend a little time thinking of the damage that can be done with constant exposure to fine dust. I have several solutions I use in my shop and sometimes I combine them.

First, is a respirator. I bought a welder's respirator for \$35 at Central Welding and think it's the greatest thing. Cumbersome and a pain to wear all the time, but even if I'm turning cedar, I can't smell a thing until I take the mask off. That's how good it works, because it's designed to filter out toxic fumes from welding.



The paper masks that you buy at Home Depot and fog up your glasses just don't cut it. That's another advantage of the respirator, it won't fog your glasses or face shield. **You are wearing a face shield, aren't you?!?!?**

There are face shields with an air filtering system like the **Trend** brand on the market. At retail, they're pretty pricey, but if you don't like the respirator, something like the Trend won't make you claustrophobic.



**The Big Daddy centerpiece of my shop's clean air** is my dust collection system. I bought it used from a downsizing turner, but even at retail, the things are not that expensive. I got a bonus of a separator which makes things really nice. Basically it's a trash can that works like a muffler. Shavings and dust are pulled into the large volume of the metal can. The heavy shavings drop out and the fine dust is pulled out and into the bottom bag

Continued on Pg 3



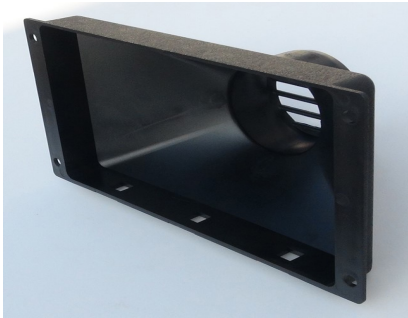
**"I think some of our old time turners are ignoring the basic need for dust collection in the shop."**

of the dust collector.

The downside of the dust collectors is the noise. I can't hear my music, which makes turning boring, so sometimes I get stupid and don't turn it on. In my **NEW** shop, I've moved all my noisy things (compressor, dust collector, vacuum) to an outside shed so I don't have to listen to them. Life and music will be better.



Being overly frugal, I tried all sorts of configurations of my suction hose on the dust collector so that it would pull the dust away from me and my work. None of them worked very well. What I really needed was a hood that was designed to do the job. Finally, Craft Supply had a sale on their hoods and I gave in. It was still a little pricey, but the time I was going to spend trying to make one would have been more than what I paid.



I plan on turning for a long time. I don't want to have to choose between turning and my health at some point. So if I'm smart and take care of my environment, I won't have to make that choice. Besides, being sick really sucks and is such a waste of time. — JTC

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*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.*

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## CBN Opportunity knocking

Larry Lemon has found a real deal on CBN wheels. The eBay store, Hurricane Turning Tools had CBN wheels made up in 6", 7" and 8" styles and found that not so many people were interested in the 7" models. So they are clearing out their stock of the 7" CBN wheels at an amazing price of \$60 for the 80 grit and 5/8" arbor. They say that these can be used on an 8" grinder.

OK, so let me muddy the waters a little. When you go to the eBay page where these 7" wheels are, ([Click here](#)), you can then go to their store page. There, you can find CBN wheels listed. **An 8" CBN wheel** with 80 grit and 5/8" arbor is listed for only \$75. ([Click Here](#)) Is that a mistake? Or is that more stock reduction? Go further into their store and they are selling CBN "kits" for \$189. What's in the kit? The only difference I could find was that the arbor was 1" with a 3/4" adaptor. Maybe this is their new supplier. Anyway, give it a look. Could be a great deal.—JTC

## 3M Sanding "paper"

Last month, Bob Hinknell told the group of his personal find in the form of 3M sanding "paper". Not really paper, but a flexible material with a sanding grit on one side that is more versatile than regular paper sand paper.

Rockler is having a garage sale type sale (hopefully it's still on) and the 3M sanding paper was included along with pages of other items.

Check it out at their [Annual Garage Sale](#). Free shipping on orders over \$35.



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# Calendar of events, shows, classes and other things

2016

July 27—	—	Molly Winton—Small Hollow Vessels
August 13	—	Club Picnic
August 20	—	Olalla Blue Grass Festival
August 24-28	—	Kitsap County Fair
Oct 1	—	Port Townsend Sawdust Session
Nov 5-6	—	Port Townsend Woodworkers Show
Nov 6	—	Jimmie Allen's Box making class
Sept 29	—	Tom Wiring workshop

## Camera operator needed

We are all amazed and enlightened at each of our meeting's demonstrations. Nothing contributes more to that experience than having a camera system that gives us a great image on our TV monitors that would otherwise be lost to such a large group as ours.

The Jeffs (Childs and Nagley) do a bang-up job of running the cameras, but are need of a third person to help carry the load.

If you are a techy type person and would like to help the club with your efforts, please talk to either Jeff at the next meeting.



## Social Coordinator sought

The club is looking for someone who would love to coordinate our social activities, such as the Thanksgiving dinner and our Christmas party.

Cindy Allen has been performing those duties for the past several years and is ready to pass the baton on to the next enthusiastic member.

Although a critical roll when a function rolls around, it is not a job that requires monthly input as some of the other board and staff jobs do.

Talk to Russell Neyman if you are interested in helping the club with our fun times.

## Classes coming up

Brad Stave has scheduled two very

interesting classes to be presented later this year. Both are limited in size and will require payment to insure a reservation.

First is a **Jimmie Allen** workshop on box making. We have all seen Jimmie's fine work displayed at our show and tells each month. Now is your opportunity to learn the ins and outs of making a quality box.

The class will be on November 6 at the school. It will be from 9am to 3pm and will include demonstration as well as hands on experience. The cost of the class is \$80 per member and does not include lunch. Size of the class is limited to 8.

The second class will be with **Tom Wirsing**. Tom is scheduled to give our demonstration for the September meeting and will also be teaching a class at Ray Ewing's shop on Thursday, September 29.

The class will be from 9am to 4pm and will include lunch for a cost of \$100 per member and a limit of 6 students.

Tom will be primarily teaching the use of a skew and a negative rake scraper to get a final cut that requires little if any sanding. In the class, you will be creating a platter.

Get your money to Brad Stave as soon as you can to reserve your slot.



"Sand-paper is just another cutting tool."

- Dick Raffan

## Things to remember

**Fill the top bucket—** We still need tops to take to the Kitsap County Fair next month. Take an afternoon of tool control practice and make a bunch of top. Different sizes, styles and materials. Decorate it as you like. They all go as 'gifts' for the kids who come by our booth at the Fair.

Remember the techniques that Eric Loftstrom used in his demo last month and put them to use making a top like he did.

**Volunteers needed—** When the clip board comes around to sign up for a time at the various fairs (Kitsap County, Olalla Blue Grass, and PT Woodworkers) be sure to get your name on the list. It will be a great time and an opportunity for you to spread the word about the club and your hobby.

No previous experience needed.

**Donate items to sell—** Make a pen, a bottle stopper, a box, an ornimaent—any small item that can be retailed for \$15 to \$25. We will sell these items at the Port Townsend Woodworkers Show in November to help defray the costs of the show.

Last year was our first appearance and all who manned the booth had a great time interacting with the crowds of people attending the show.

**Still need volunteers** for this winter's **Tree Brigade**. Sign up (or send me an email) if you'd like to join the group of turners that will be on call to harvest turnable downed trees in the area.

**Please pay your dues—** Half of our income is derived from our member's dues. This goes to pay for the expert teachers that come each month and present a demonstration to help you advance your skills. Please pay as soon as you can. It's only \$30 for the year. A bargain.

**Sharpening and turning—**Each month we will *try* to have Jimmie Allen helping you sharpen your problem gouges and one of the mentors helping you with their *early bird turning*. 'Try' is the operative word.—JTC

**Port Townsend Sawdust Session—** Brad Stave, VP of Training, has scheduled a "North of the Bridge" sawdust session in partnership with the Port Townsend School of Woodworking. The day long session will be on October 1, a Saturday, at the Fort Worden facility.

This is a special event designed to reach out to woodturners and latent woodturners North of the Hood Canal Bridge.



## Auction Update

Last month the board put out the word that quality donations of wood blanks were needed and that members needed to view the auction as an opportunity to buy good wood at a bargain, but not at garage sale prices. It is, after all, the wood auction that funds half of all the activities of the club.

Larry Lemon, our auctioneer, was amazed and overwhelmed with your response. The wood brought in was of great quality and the income from the auction was the best it has been in a long while.

**So, high fives, turners! ! !** And thank you.

**Custom blanking** is being offered to any buyer of an auction piece. If the chunk of wood is too big for your lathe or you don't have a bandsaw to do your own blanking, talk to your auctioneer, Larry Lemon and he will arrange for someone to custom cut your blank for you.



## Jet 12-36 to be Auctioned

The club has a Jet 12-36 that has been reconditioned and will be auctioned off at the September meeting.

The lathe will be used as a demonstration tool at the Kitsap County Fair, August 24-28. If you are interested in the lathe and would like to test it out, go to the county fair—**better yet, sign up to man the booth**—and give it a test drive.

Proceeds from the sale will go towards upgrading our video and sound systems.



**Welcome to our new members—**for June. Valerie and Duane Henschel from PA, and Gerald Hockett from Seabeck. Everyone says they are beginners. So say 'Hello'.

# Fun Facts About Wood.

*The following article is reprinted from the Cook Woods website. Russell Neyman's column may resume next month.*

We take that fibery material and chuck it up on our lathe without a second thought about the tree itself. Truth is, trees are interesting and there are any number of fun facts that are worth consideration. For instance:

**The lightest and softest** wood in the world is Balsa. It's average specific gravity averages 0.16. The heaviest and the hardest wood in the world is Snakewood. It's specific gravity averages 1.30. Not all species of wood floats in water. In order to sink in water the specific gravity of the wood, has to be 1.00 or more. These 17 sink—African Blackwood, African Ebony, Black Ironwood, Brazilwood, CocoBolo, East Indian Satinwood, Ekki, Greenheart, IPE, Kingwood, Lignum Vitae, Macassar Ebony, Marblewood, Satine {Bloodwood}, Snakewood, Sucupira and White Topped Box.

**The whitest wood** in the world is Holly. The blackest wood in the world is Gabon Ebony. The only species of wood that can be used for holding liquids {other than acids} is White Oak. This is because the pores are filled with tyloses. This substance does not allow liquids to penetrate it

**Up until a few years ago**, the world's oldest living tree, a Bristlecone Pine, named the Methuselah was in California. It is approximately 4,600 years old. Now there may be at least two trees that are older. The usual way of calculating a trees age by counting the annual rings in the trunk or by carbon dating, are not accurate when it comes to Yews because a Yews trunk tends to hollow with age, while it continues to grow by rooting its branches and wrapping them around itself. There is even documentation of the formation of aerial roots growing inside the

hollow trunk. Another reason are Yews have been known to stop growing for long periods of time, {documented 325 years}, thus having no growth rings for that period

**Teak has the** largest leaves of any species. The leaves can be 10 inches - 20 inches long and 7 inches - 14 inches wide

**The tallest standing** tree, a Redwood, is in Humboldt State Redwood Park California. It is 368 feet {almost 37 stories} tall. The world's largest diameter tree, a Redwood is in California. It is over 90 feet in diameter. Its root system is spread out for more than an acre

**The slowest growing** tree is a White Cedar located in Canada. After 155 years, it grew to a height of 4 inches and weighed only six-tenths of an ounce. The tree can be found on a cliffside in the Canadian Great Lakes area.

**The fastest growing** tree is the Empress tree. This tree can grow up to 20 feet the first year and some have been documented growing 12 inches in 21 days!

**The largest root system** is the great Banyan tree in the Indian Botanical Garden, Calcutta, India. It covers an area of 3 acres. It has 1,775 supporting roots and dates back to 1787. The world's largest living tree, and this is because of its volume is the General Sherman Giant Sequoia, located in Sequoia National Park, in California. It weighs a little over 2.7 million pounds. Its largest branch is 6 foot 9 1/2 inches in diameter.

**Flagstaff Arizona** was named when On July 4th 1876; lumberjacks stripped the limbs from the tallest Ponderosa Pine and then flew the American flag from it.

*So, there you have it. You'll never see that bowl blanks in the same light again.*

There is a redwood tree in California, with a root ball that spreads out for more than an acre.....

But that's not even the largest root system. That honor belongs to the Banyan tree of India.



# TURNERS POTLUCK PICNIC

**WHEN**  
**August 13th**  
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**WHERE**  
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Horseshoes? Softball? Live music? It's a picnic, and you just never know what might happen or who will turn up. Gather up your chairs and tables (and your appetite) and come on down. We've reserved the entire park for the entire afternoon.

## GREAT FOOD

The club will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, and basic beverages, so the rest is up to you. Food assignments are by last name:

- A-F Main Dishes,
- G-L Desserts
- M-R Fingerfood.

## DIRECTIONS

From Highway 3 go north on Sam Christopherson Road, then turn left. Go two short blocks and the park will be on the right.

## NOTES

Besides your assigned food choice, bring chairs and any games that strike your fancy.

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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
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C: 360-813-4484  
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**Brad Stave**, VP Training & Education  
C: 206-910-5459  
Training@OPCAOW.com

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C: 360-531-0168  
PublicRelations@OPCAOW.com

**Pam Kellington**, VP Membership  
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**Vern West**, Secretary  
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Treasurer@OPCAOW.com

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SergeantatArms@OPCAOW.com

To email all Board of Directors at once—  
BOD@OPCAOW.com

To email all Staff email at once—  
Staff@OPCAOW.com

### STAFF POSITIONS

**Larry Matkins** Webmaster  
360-551-1044  
Webmaster@OPCAOW

**Cindy Allen**, Special Events Coordinator  
H:360-373-3041  
SpecialEvents@OPCAOW.com

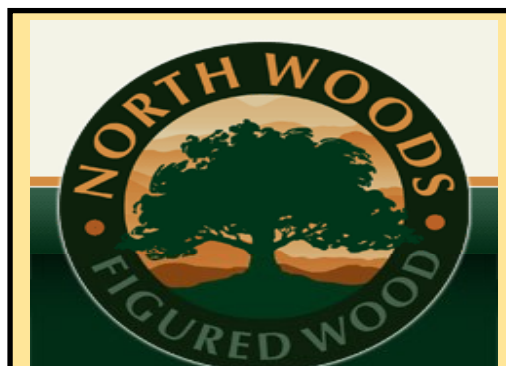
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**-- Dick Raffan,  
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